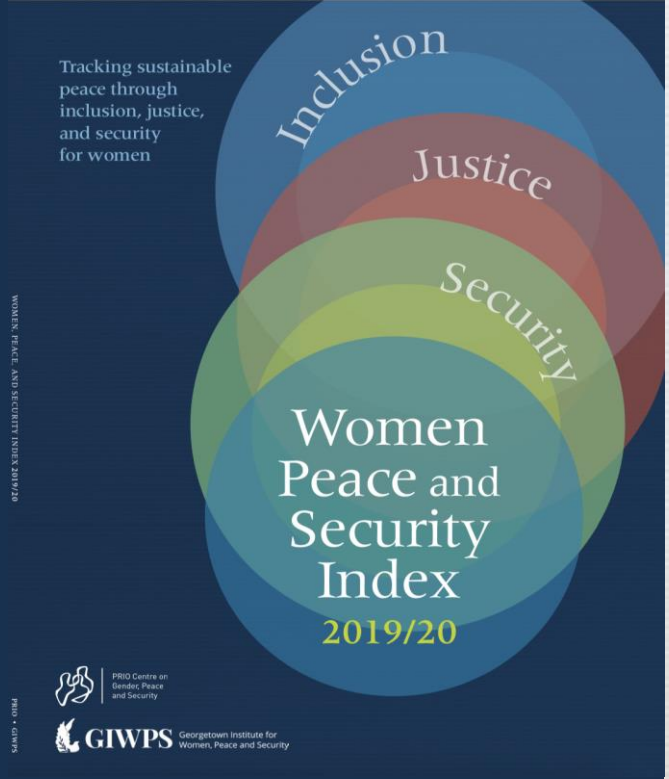

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Jeni Klugman

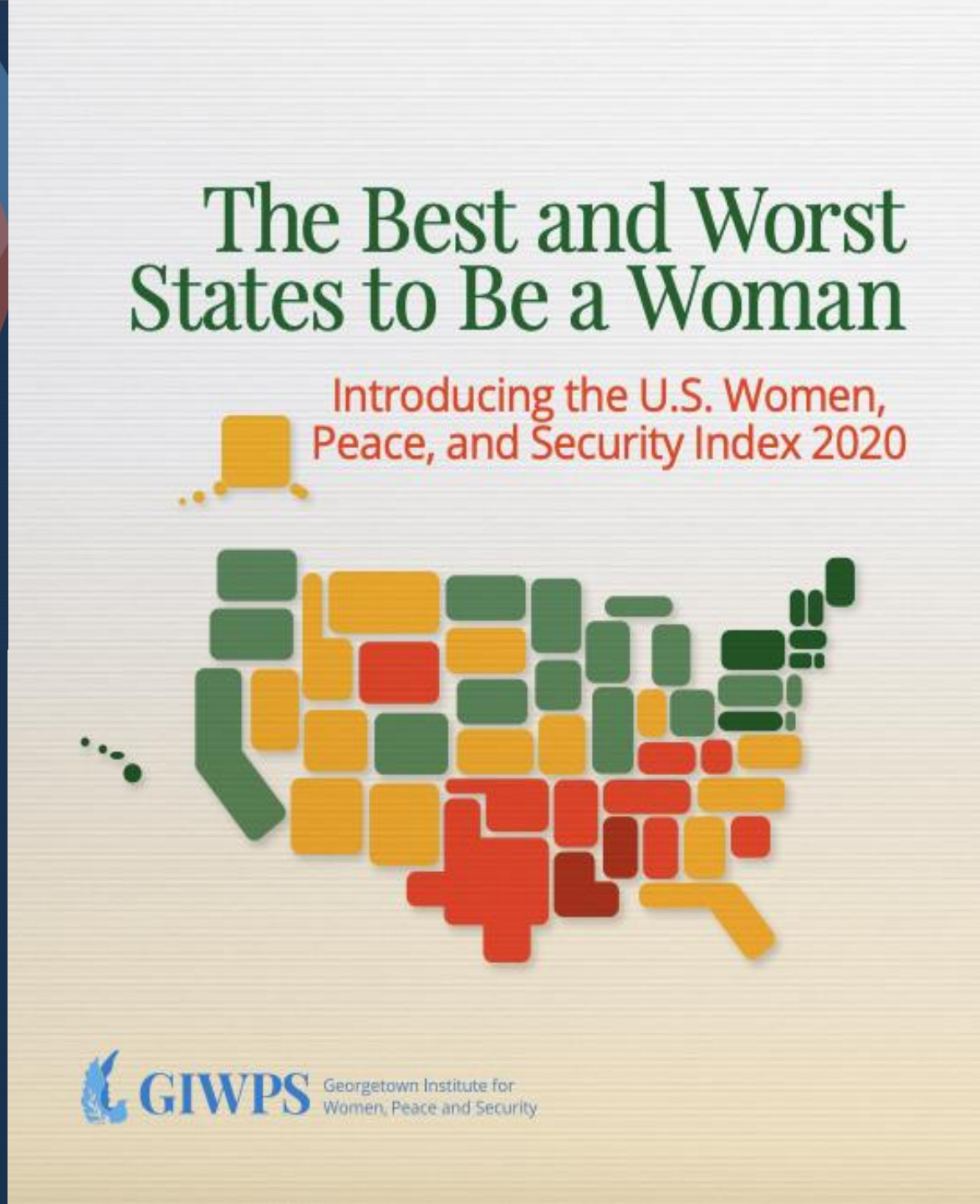
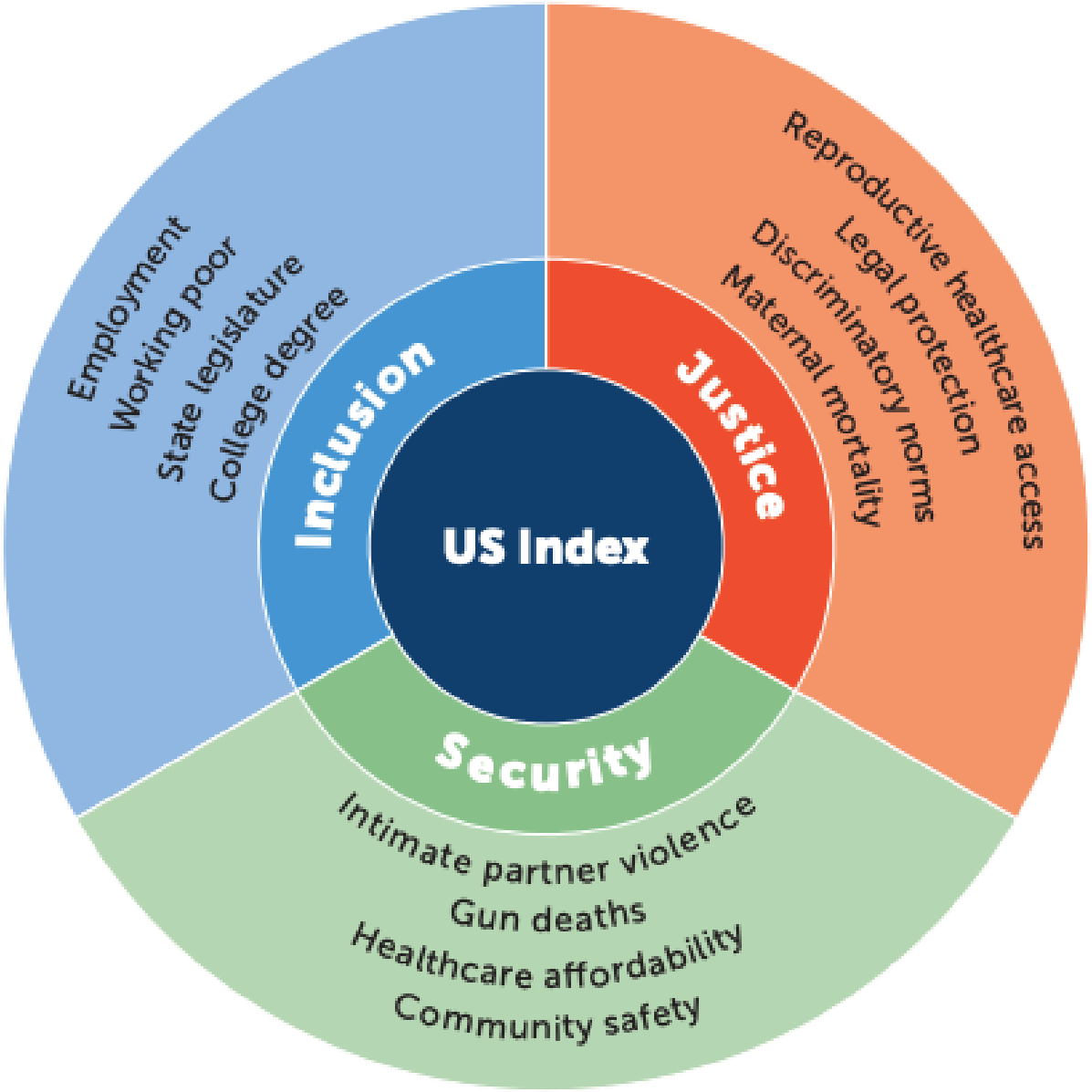


FIGURE 1 **The US Women, Peace, and Security Index: Three dimensions and 12 indicators**



Structure of the report

Chapter 1: Introducing the US Women, Peace, and Security Index

Chapter 2: Key results and highlights

Chapter 3: Understanding disparities and behind the dimensions

Statistical Tables – Full set of indicators, available data on racial disparities and gender gaps

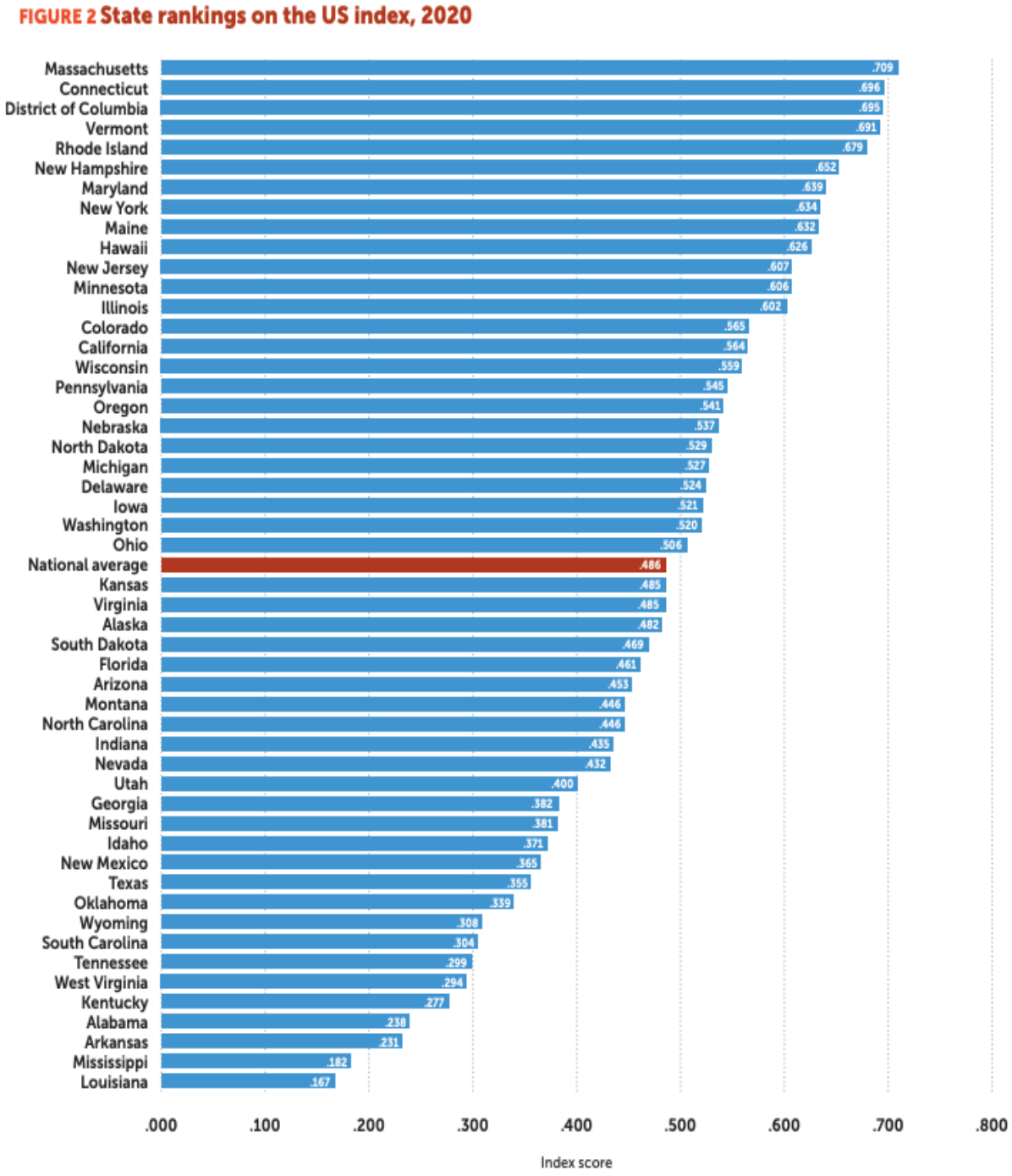
Data for the index drawn from existing sources, including:

- US Census Bureau
- CDC
- Guttmacher Institute
- Center for American Women in Politics

Complemented by a new nationally representative survey of 2600 adults, conducted with YouGov and PerryUndem in August, covering gender, racial inequalities, and the effects of COVID-19.

Vast disparities across states

Top ranked Massachusetts scores almost four times higher than bottom ranked Louisiana



Insights from our new survey

Overall, two-thirds of Americans think that more work has to be done to achieve full equality in the United States.

Democrats and Black Americans are much more likely to say that there is more to do.

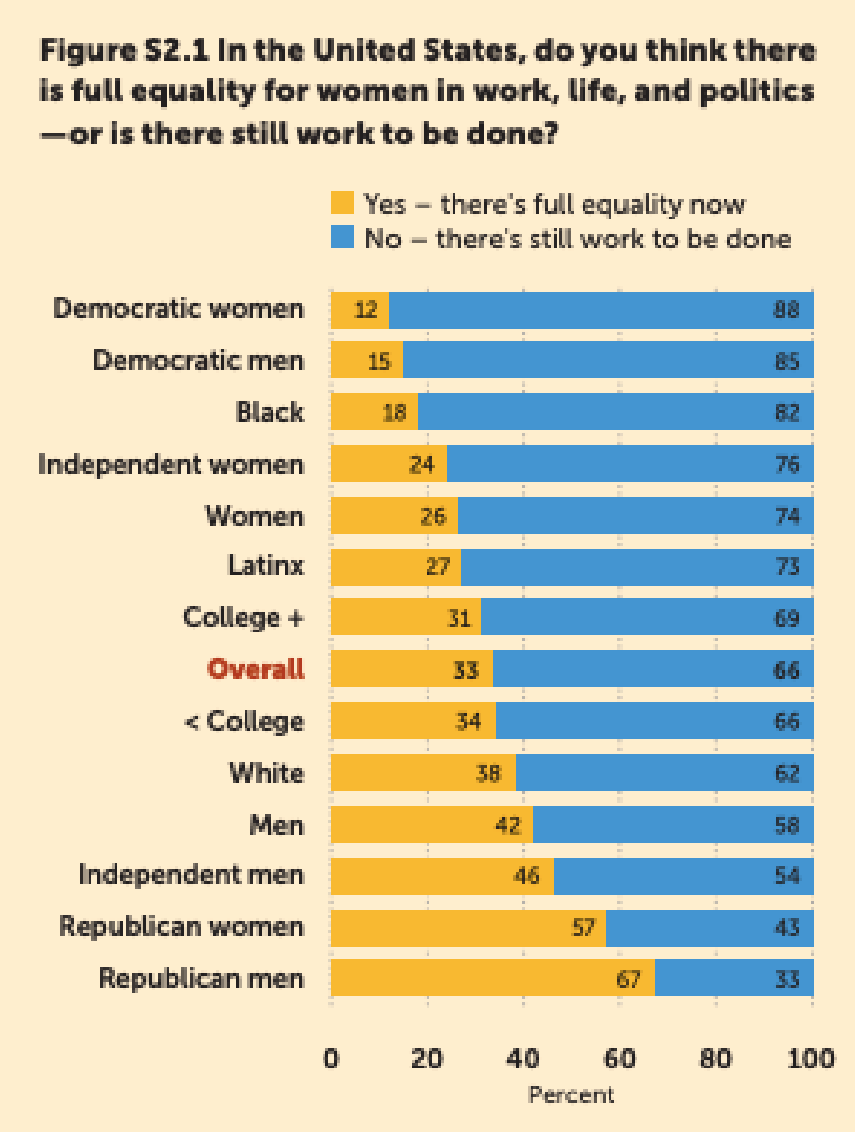


FIGURE 3 What does gender equality look like to you?

Responses to the question: What does gender equality look like to you? In other words, how would you know that we've reached full gender equality in our country?

Clear regional patterns in performance

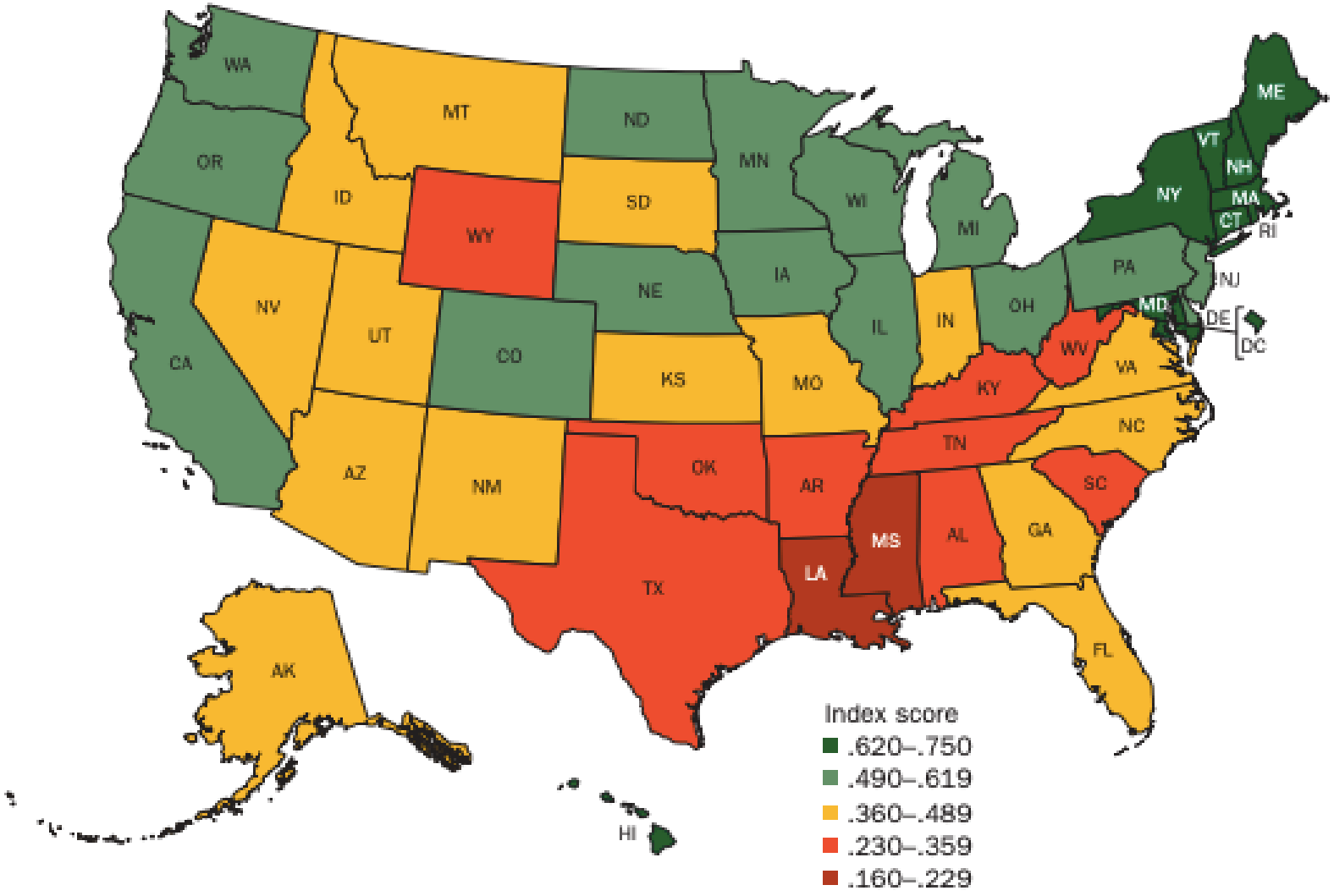
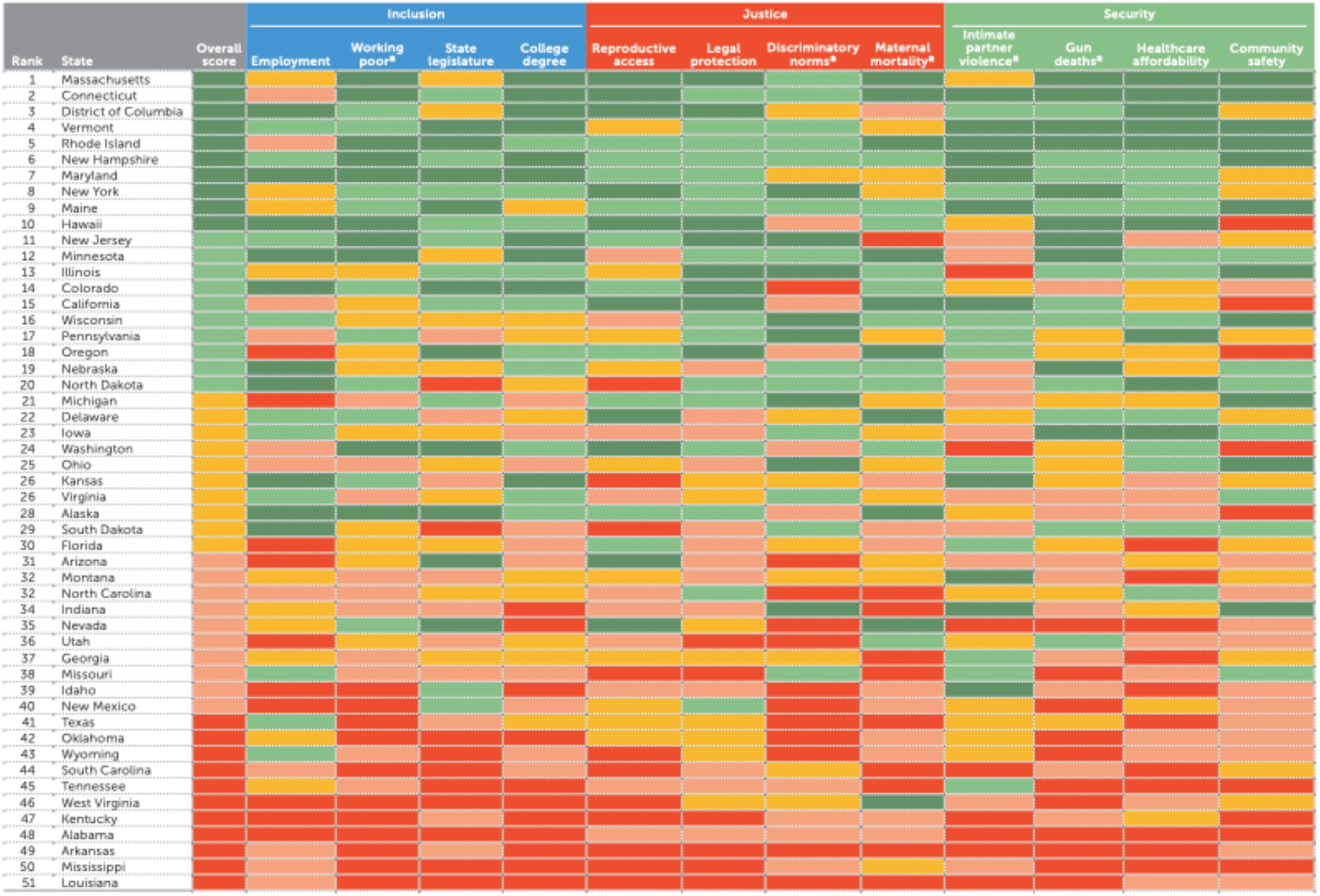


FIGURE 2.5 Traffic lights highlight uneven performance across the index indicators, 2020

Performance by quintile for overall rank and individual indicators



Women face serious security and justice constraints

Nearly 80 percent of men feel safe walking within a mile of their neighborhood at night, but only 56 percent of women

University of Chicago's General Social Survey.

> "Just walking down the street because I'm a woman makes me feel unsafe. Men stare and whistle to get my attention, when clearly I'm just minding my own business and I want to be left alone."
>
> *—Hispanic woman from Texas, age 44, on a time she experienced discrimination or felt unsafe because she is a woman*

FIGURE 3.9 Stories of discrimination and insecurity

Responses to the question: "Do you have a story about a time when you felt discriminated against or unsafe because you are a woman?"

Gaps in legal protection

The state in which a woman lives determines her ability to file a workplace sexual harassment claim, her level of protection from an abusive partner, and whether she can take paid time off for caregiving.

FIGURE 1.4 No state offers full legal protections of women's rights; some offer none

Does state law:

A. Protect workers from sexual harassment, regardless of company size?
B. Require the relinquishment of firearms from abusers subject to domestic violence protective orders?
C. Guarantee unemployment benefits to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking?
D. Mandate paid parental leave?
E. Set minimum wage above the low-income threshold of $12/hour?
F. Allow abortion without state-mandated in-person counseling?
G. Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment?

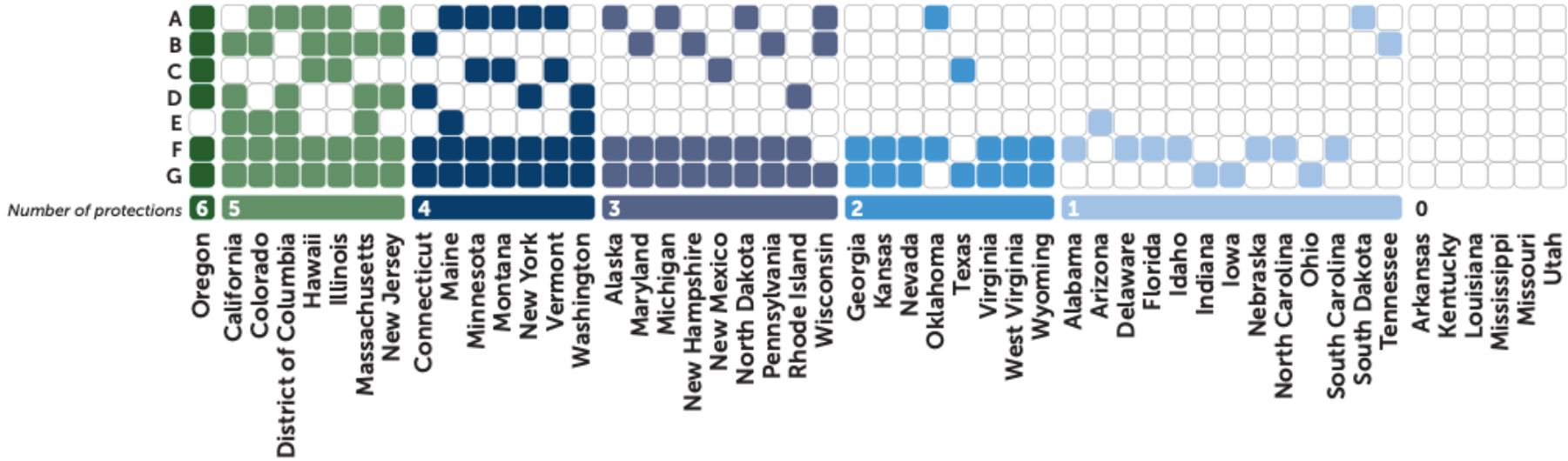
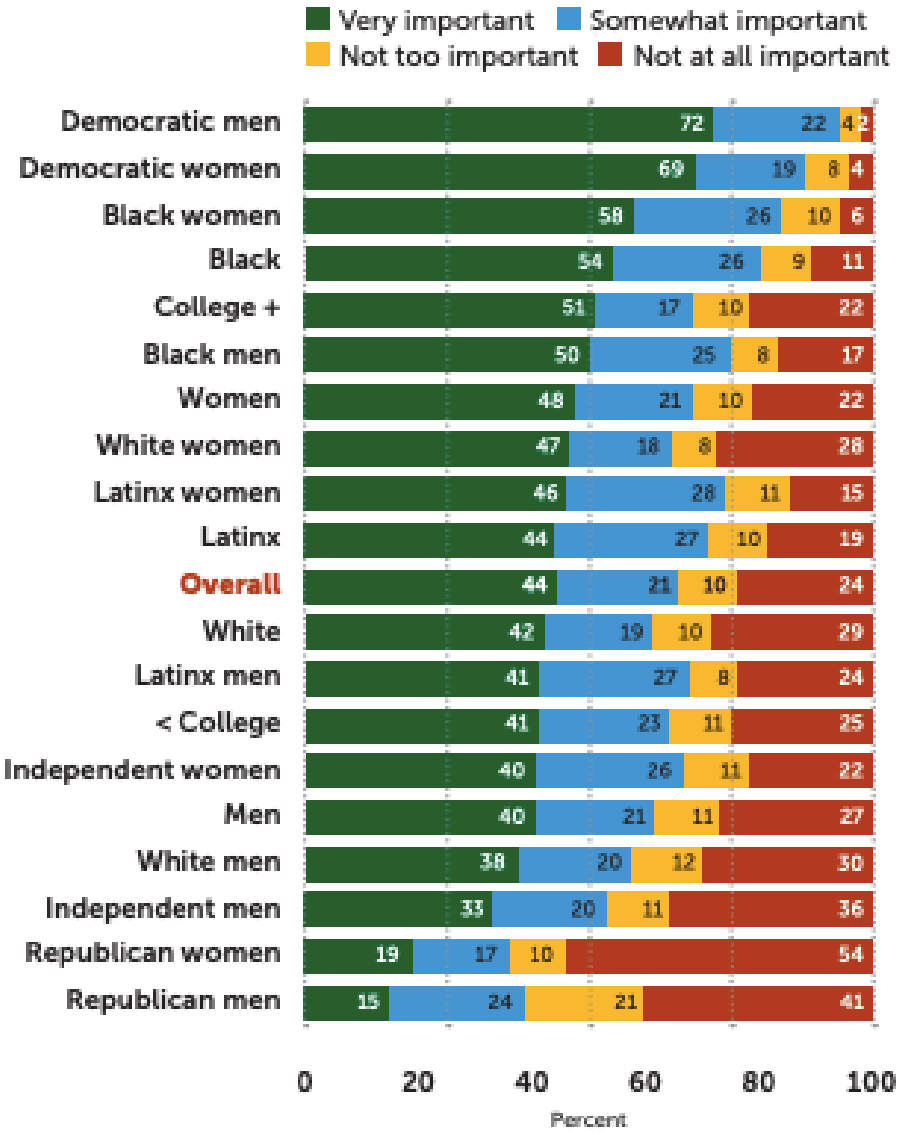


FIGURE 3.6 Two-thirds of adults believe that access to abortion is important to women's rights

Responses to the question: "In your view, is access to abortion an important part of women's rights and equality, or not?"



Overall support for women's sexual and reproductive healthcare is strong, with 65 percent of adults believing that access to abortion is important to women's rights.

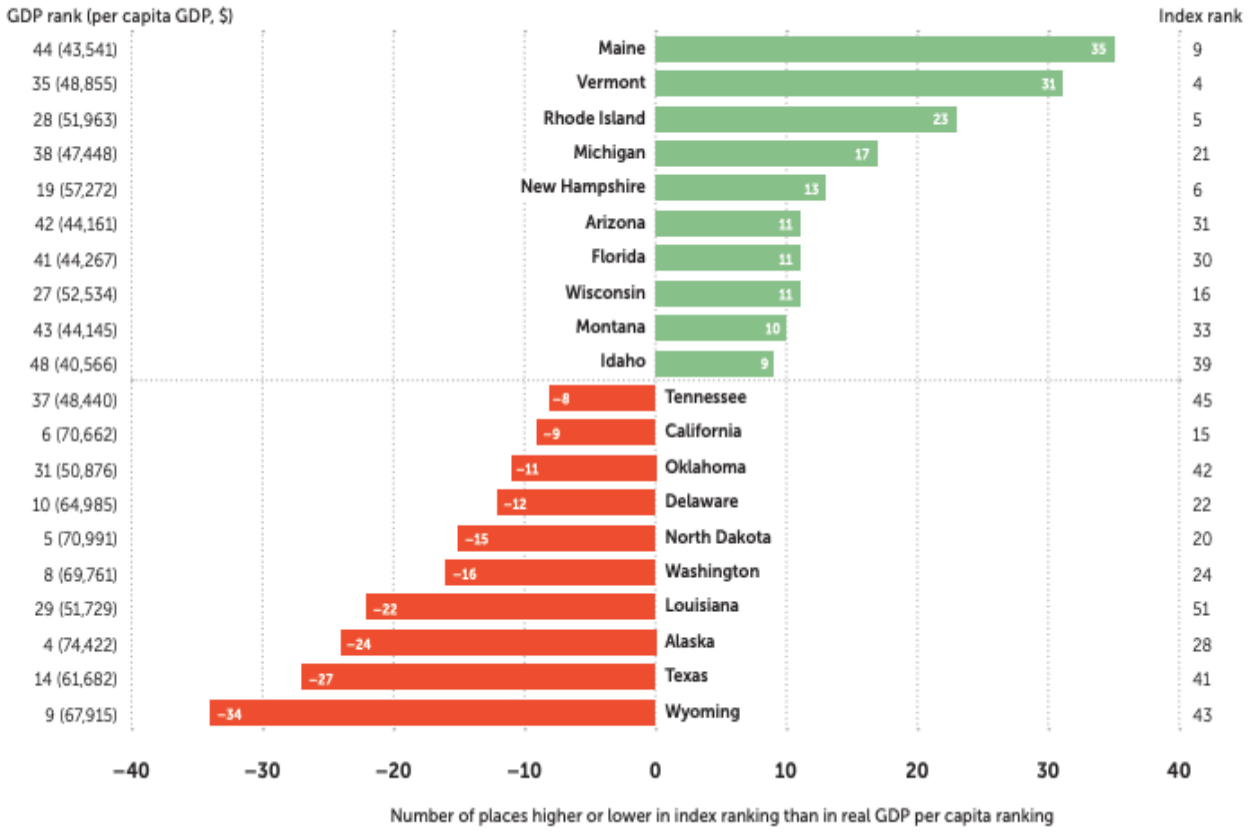
However, support is much lower among Republicans.

Key factors explaining performance

Multivariate analysis finds that states which do better tend to be :

- More urban
- Controlled by the Democratic party for more years
- Less racially diverse
- Richer

FIGURE 2.4 Some states fare much better and others much worse in their index rank compared with their rank on per capita income, 2020



Only one state currently has gender parity in political representation

FIGURE 3.3 The best and worst states for women's representation in the state legislature, 2020

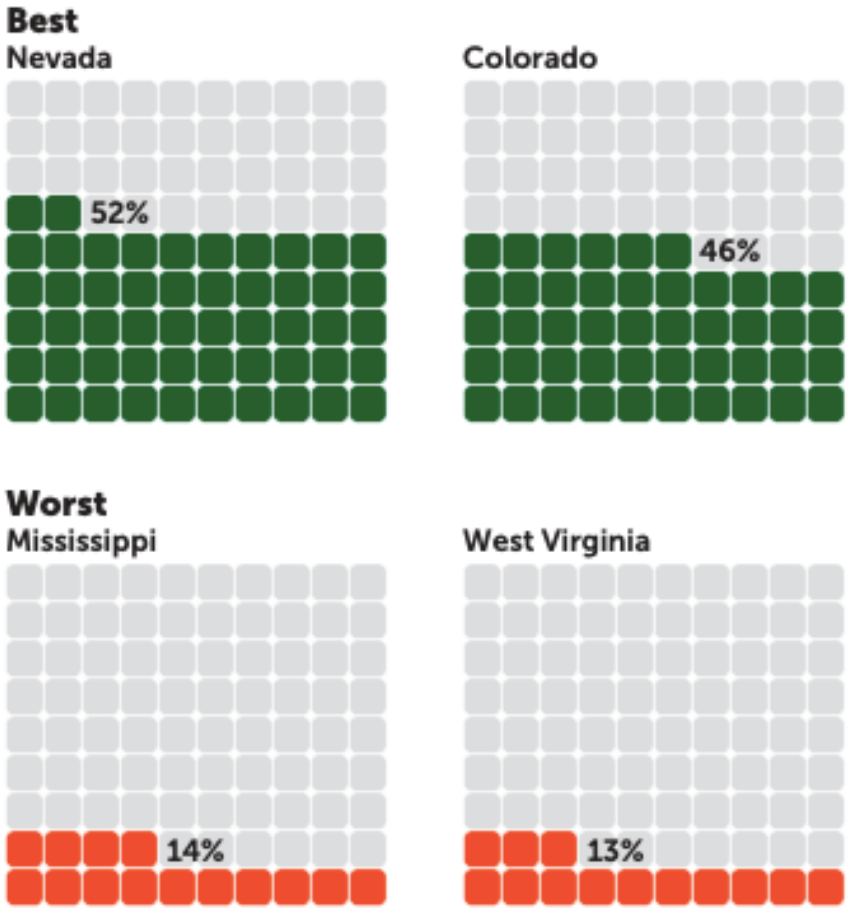
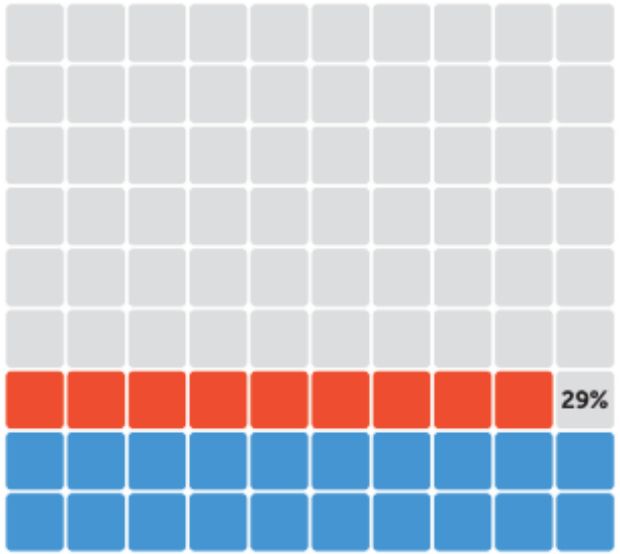
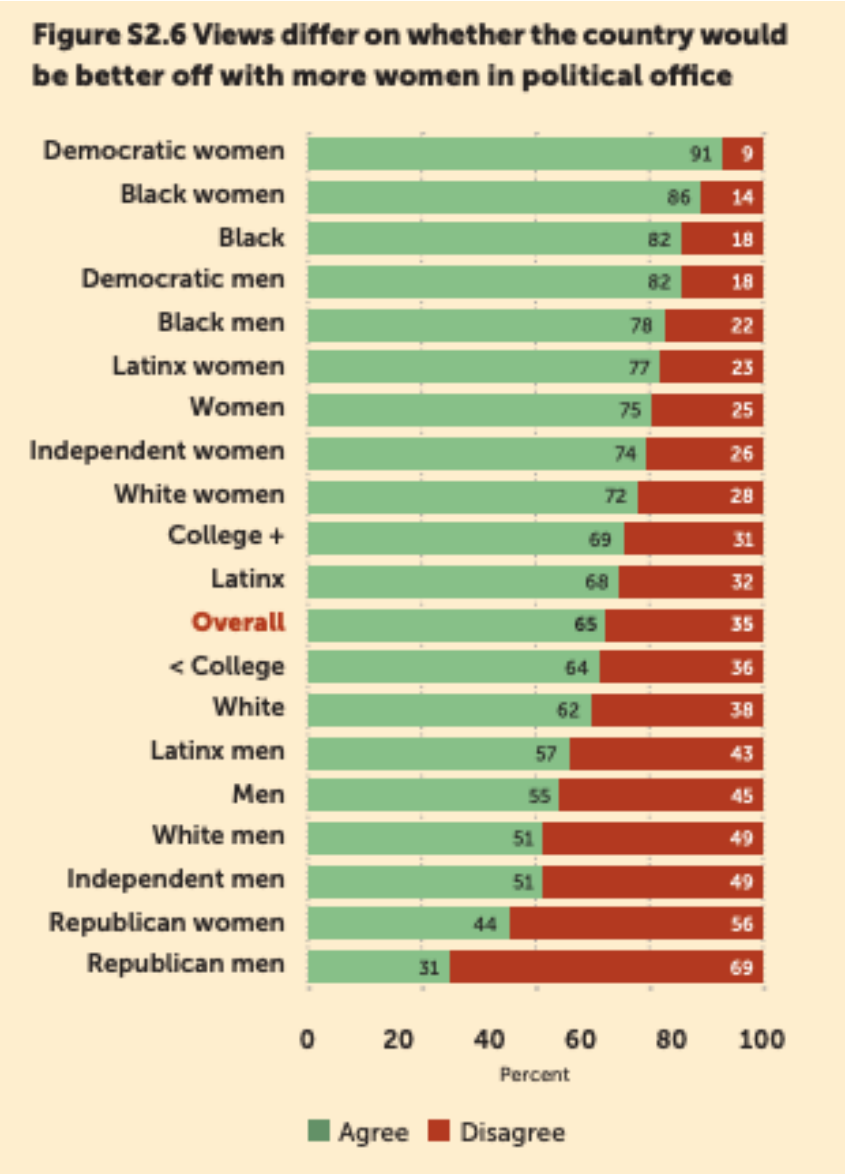


FIGURE 3.4 Democratic women hold twice as many state legislature seats as Republican women, 2020



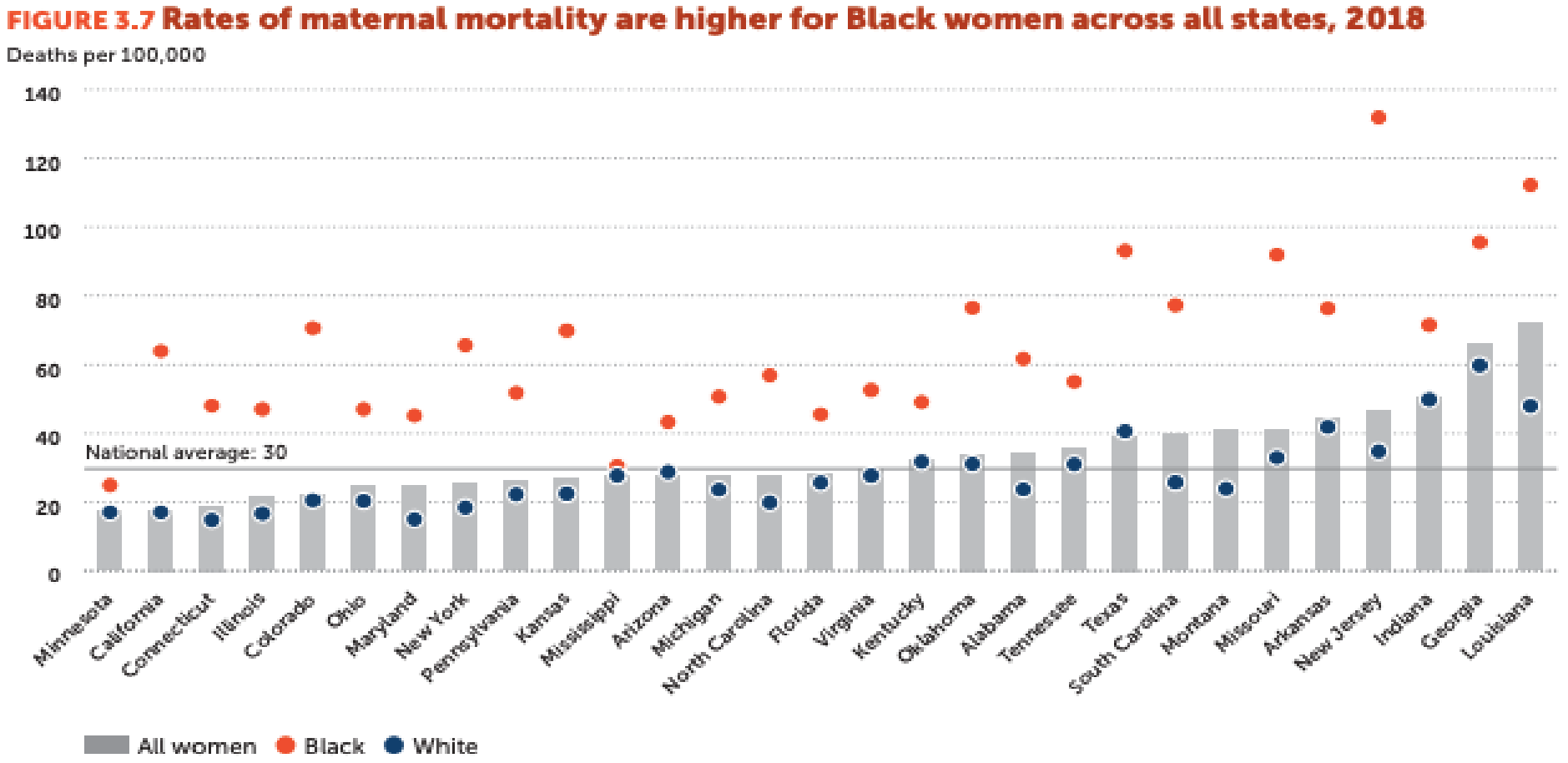
Overall support for more women in political office



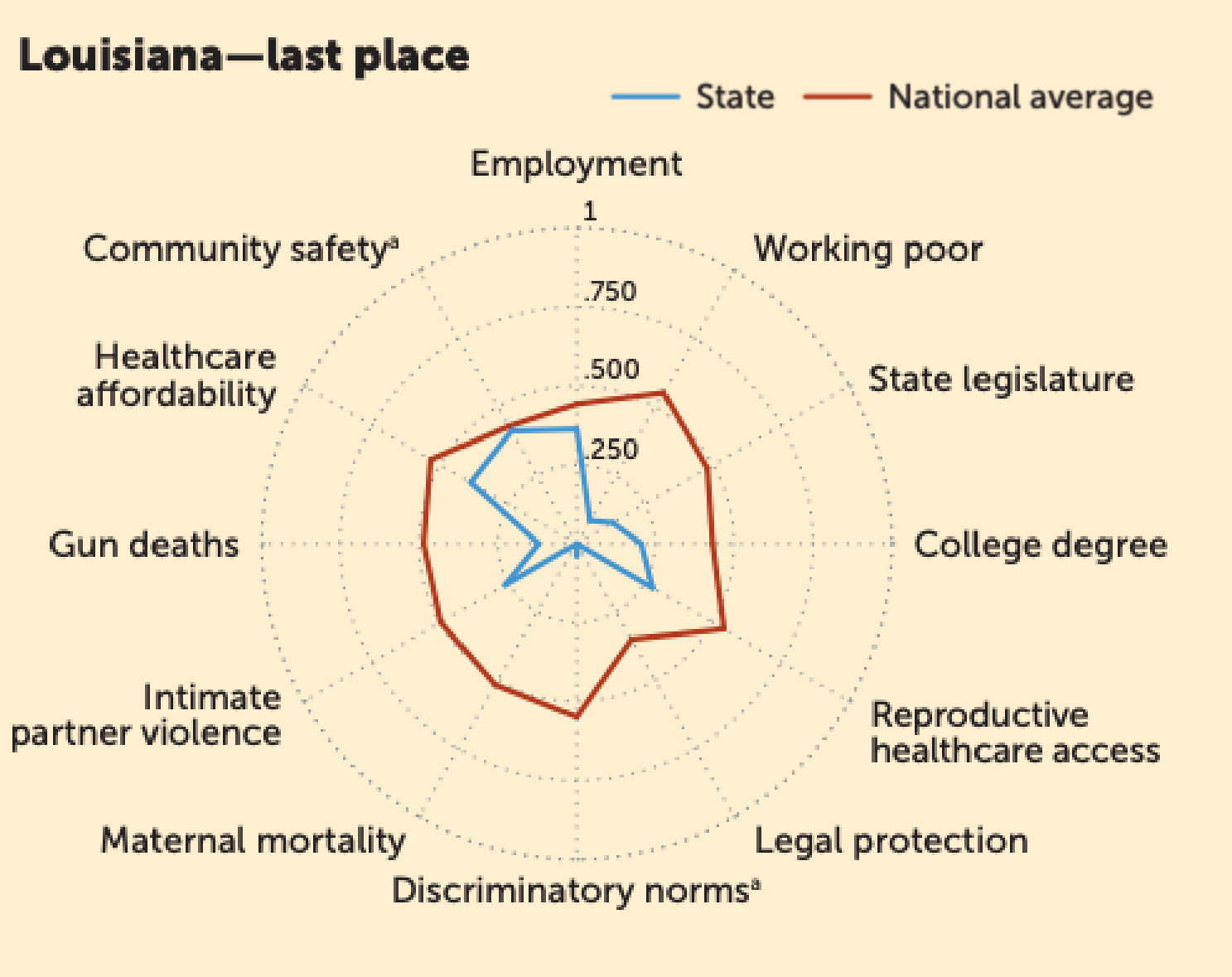
Support is strongest among Democrats and Black Americans.

Least support among Republicans and white men.

Major racial gaps among women in the US



Spotlight on Louisiana



Ways forward

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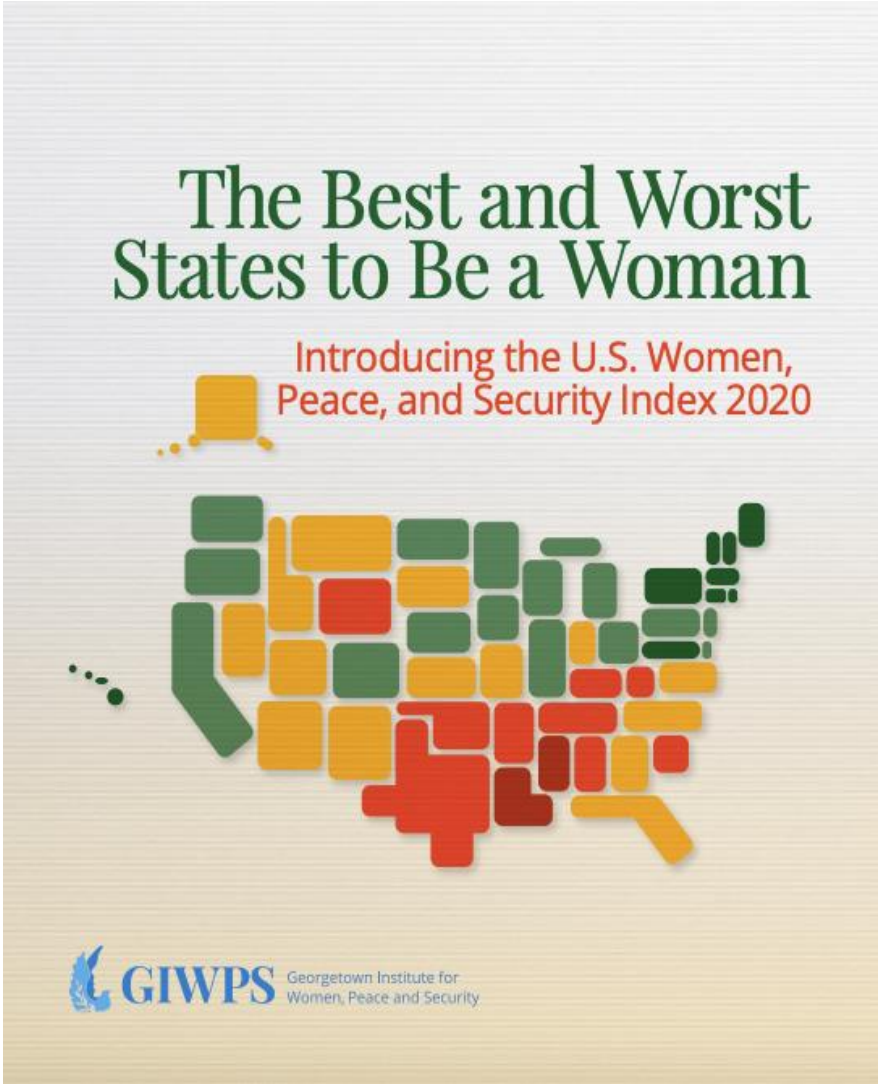
Tackle overlapping disadvantage – and especially constraints facing women of color. More important than ever amidst COVID-19.

Close gaps in legal protection – from economic protections to ensuring abusers do not have access to firearms.

Ensure access to the full range of reproductive health services

Promote women's voices – boost political representation

Improve the data – including on intimate partner violence and financial inclusion and ensure that data are racially disaggregated.



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