Office on the Economic Status of Women

Monthly Newsletter
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Oberg Mountain, North Shore of Lake Superior, by nikitsin via Canva.

IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE:

- October: Breast Cancer Research Month
- Unhoused Women and Homelessness in Minnesota
- AI and Wage Loss Dashboard
- Reading List

Per **Minnesota Statute Sec. 3.303, Subdivision 7**, the Office on the Economic Status of Women "shall study study and report to the legislature on all matters relating to the economic status of women... The [OESW] shall communicate its findings and make recommendations to the legislature on an ongoing basis."

October: Breast Cancer Awareness
Research Recap

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month! In the past year, breast cancer research has seen several breakthroughs in diagnosis efficacy and treatment options.

Specificity in breast cancer diagnoses

DCIS, ductal carcinoma in situ, is a growth of cells commonly found during mammograms. They can lead to breast cancer for about 1 in 5 women, but often do not. Researchers at UCSD set out to discover a reliable, objective way of determining whether DCIS cells will become cancerous in the future. They used a measure of a cell's "stickiness" - the strength of a cell's attachment to neighboring cells, and found that stickier cells were less likely to become cancerous, and that stickiness had a negative correlation with the number of genes related to cancer. The practice was successful both inside and outside the lab on women with DCIS, and they were consistently able to distinguish between high-risk and low-risk DCIS samples. Though the practice requires further research and is in early stages, it presents a potentially useful diagnostic tool.

Cutting the fuel to triple-negative breast cancer

Researchers know that immune cells inside of tumors, called macrophages, supply nutrients to triple-negative breast cancer, making it especially hard to fight. Researchers attempted to disrupt the metabolism of these immune cells using a new drug, 6-AN. It slowed tumor growth in one model, though not another, and increased the number of cancer-killing cells. Researchers stated that targeting the macrophages metabolism in this way could be a way to help boost immune responses to triple-negative breast cancer.

New targeted drug agent for metastatic ER+/HER2- breast cancer

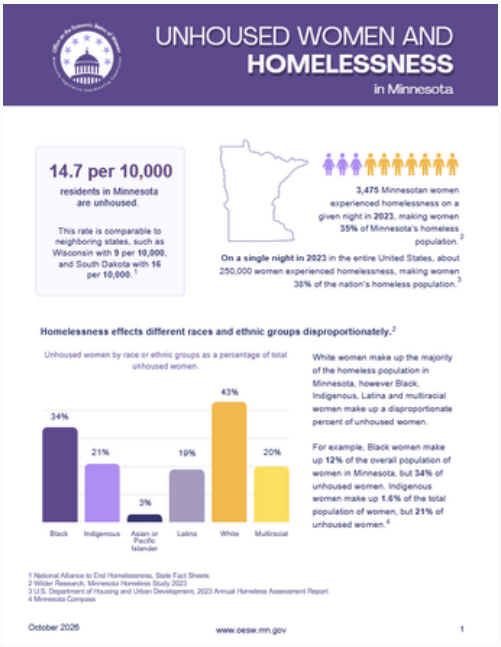
In July, the FDA approved a new drug, gedatolisib, from a Minneapolis-based biotech firm. The new drug is a "multi-targeted kinase inhibitor" which is able to halt parts of a signaling pathway that is often co-opted by cancer cells to drive their own growth, and is designed to work alongside an already existing drug called fulvestrant. In the clinical trial, all groups who took gedatolisib in combination with any other treatments showed significantly improved, progression-free survival.

Unhoused Women and Homelessness in Minnesota

Our October factsheet looks into the demographics of unhoused women and the experience of homelessness for women in Minnesota.

Women make up about **35**% of Minnesota's unhoused population, slightly less than the gender proportion for the country overall. The majority of unhoused women in Minnesota have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, and many have attended college. Many are also employed or actively looking for work.

Check out the full factsheet on our website for more detailed statistics.



AI-attributed layoffs in Minnesota

The Center for AI Safety, a non-profit with the mission to reduce risks associated with AI by conducting safety research, has published a new wage loss dashboard that tracks wage and employment losses associated with AI by state. Currently, according to the dashboard, Minnesota has seen a loss of **483 jobs**, which is a **24x** increase since January of this year. They estimate that in wages, these losses come to **$34,000,000** annually. Compared to the rest of the country, however, Minnesota has seen much less AI-attributed job loss than states like California, Washington, Texas, Florida and New York, all of which are seeing job losses to AI numbering in the thousands. California has seen the highest losses, with 27,270 job losses attributed to AI, estimating a loss of $2.2 billion dollars in wages. The researchers note that this dashboard tool does not measure jobs created by AI, gains in productivity, re-employment following job loss, or other secondary economic effects.

While only one part of the puzzle of AI's impact on the job market, research has suggested that women are likely to be disproportionately affected by AI related job losses. A working paper published earlier this year by the National Bureau of Economic Research identified roles and industries that were particular vulnerable to job loss due to AI. Of those vulnerable roles, **81%** of workers in them were women. Due to the high concentration of women in clerical, secretarial and administrative work, many have been concerned about the impact of AI on women's economic opportunities, but tools like this wage loss dashboard may help keep track of these emerging labor market changes.

READING LIST

Reading list features a variety of news and articles related to the OESW's areas of interest from different perspectives, but does not necessarily reflect the views of the OESW or function as an endorsement of the views expressed.

In a Texas prison, Kwaneta cultivated a menopause support network from scraps of paper
The 19th

Too many women face a "diagnostic odyssey" at the doctor's office
CBS News

Building a business case for workplace menstrual hygiene management programs
Journal of Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for Development

OB-GYNS set new rules for menopause treatment
NPR News

Trump signs executive order creating women's health division within NIH
CBS News

St. Louis Park woman breaks Guinness speed mark for rucking
Star Tribune

Gone Girls: Hollywood is Purging its Women Execs
Vanity Fair

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