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Study of girls in Minnesota finds challenges, but a ray of promise

By [Linda Vanderwerf](#), West Central Tribune

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WILLMAR — Among the nearly 140,000 children in Minnesota considered to be living in poverty, 55 percent live in rural Minnesota. Women are the heads of household in a majority of poor families with children. Poverty rates are higher for girls than for boys. In its latest research report, "Status of Girls in Minnesota," the Women's Foundation of Minnesota has outlined a picture that isn't always pretty but does offer some hope for the future of the state's girls. The group's research indicates Minnesota girls are full of potential, Carol McGee Johnson of the foundation told a gather Tuesday morning at Ridgewater College. "Obviously, out here in Greater Minnesota, children in poverty is a big issue," Johnson said. The research indicates that girls work hard at home and at school. For the most part, they get good grades, take care of themselves and avoid risky behavior. Still, the report ...

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