



Photo courtesy of: www.blogger.com

Women in Racing

Quick Stats Indianapolis 500

There have been ten women attempt to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 with nine of them actually racing in the “Greatest Spectacle in Racing.” That number translates to only 0.3% of all Indy 500 racecar drivers. Participation by women was discouraged throughout the first several decades of the Indianapolis 500; however, a number of female owners/sponsors were involved since the early years. Maude Yagle was the first female owner (1929-1932) at the Indianapolis 500. She became the first female-owned winner when Ray Keech won the race in 1929. However, it wasn't until 1976, when Janet Guthrie arrived at the Speedway hoping to qualify as a driver and in 1977, she became the first woman to compete at the Indianapolis 500.

Since 2000, at least one woman has always been racing at the Indianapolis 500. Three women have been Rookie of the Year: Lyn St. James (1992), Danica Patrick (2005) and Simona de Silvestro (2010).

List of Women's Firsts at the Indianapolis 500

- 1929 – Maude Yagle becomes the first and only female car owner to win
- 1976 – Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to attempt to qualify
- 1977 – Janet Guthrie becomes the first woman to start
- 1992 – Lyn St. James becomes the first female Rookie of the Year
- 2000 – Sarah Fisher is the youngest woman to compete at age 19
- 2005 – Danica Patrick becomes the first woman to lead a lap
- 2007 – First race with three women competing in the field (Milka Duno, Sarah Fisher, Danica Patrick)
- 2007 – First race where two women were running at the completion of the event (Fisher, Patrick)
- 2009 – First race where three women (Duno, Fisher, Patrick) finished
- 2009 – Danica Patrick achieves the highest finish for a woman (3rd)
- 2013 – Pippa Mann joins Ana Beatriz at Dale Coyne Racing, the first time women have been teammates

Source: Indianapolis Motor Speedway ([www..indianapolis motorspeedway.com](http://www.indianapolis motorspeedway.com))

In its 2012 *Hoosier Women Speak* report, the Indiana Commission for Women (ICW) identified several common themes across all issues affecting women. One of these themes was a general lack of knowledge about how to connect to resources, tools and opportunities and about the status of women in Indiana. To assist with this need, ICW created *Quick Stats*, one-page briefs that provide information highlighting selected topics and are based on current Census and/or other data from sources believed to be reliable. These data briefs on women in Indiana can be used as an entry point to understand women's status, condition and contributions. Further ways to understand issues are:

- Continuing to learn more about the issues affecting women in Indiana.
- Voicing your opinion on issues important to you
- Serving as an advocate for women
- Mentoring other women
- Joining ICW's mailing list or social media outlets to be notified of upcoming events, programs and resources available to women

Go to www.in.gov/icw to learn more about the Indiana Commission for Women and their current initiatives.

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