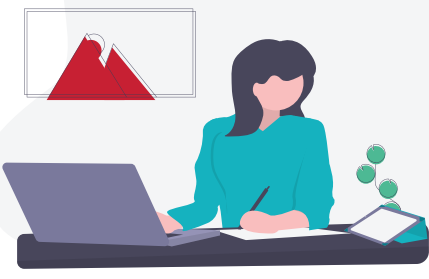


History of Women in Insurance

120 years and counting...



1897

Insurance Standard becomes the only insurance newspaper actively managed by a woman named Emily Ransom.

1930

Nearly 15,000 women are employed as insurance agents and officials in the U.S. – triple the level compared to the last decade.

1944

A Washington Post article titled “Woman Agent in Insurance Here to Stay” states: “... it took the war and the consequent manpower shortage to cause companies to recruit and train women in large numbers. There is nothing temporary about ‘women in life insurance’ because they’re being trained on a career basis.”

1960

Viola G. Turner becomes the first woman Vice President at North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company – the largest African American life insurance company in the nation.

1976

The Association of Professional Insurance Women is founded which provided assistance to women with career development in the insurance industry.

1996

72% of life insurance companies feel that diversity programs are some of their most important objectives, as per a LIMRA survey.

2013

Inga Beale named the first female CEO in Lloyd’s of London’s 325-year history.

2020

Women dominate insurance occupations such as claims processing, adjusters, and sales agents. Also, 21.4% of executives and officers at large insurers that trade on the NYSE or Nasdaq are women.

1892

Bina M. West, a young school teacher from Capac, Michigan, establishes the Women's Benefit Association, one of the first organizations in the United States to offer life insurance to women.

1910

Crystal Eastman’s report “Work Accidents and the Law” becomes a classic and eventually results in the first workers compensation law, which she drafted while serving on a New York state commission.

1936

The first recorded women’s insurance industry organization – Women Leaders Round Table – is founded. It is now known as Women in Insurance & Financial Services.

1953

Lucille Devore Tucker, an agent at New York Life, is the first woman to join the Million Dollar Round Table (the highest industry honor for an insurance salesperson).

1961

Virginia Mae Brown is named West Virginia’s Insurance Commissioner – making her the first woman insurance commissioner in the U.S.

1980

A Manager’s Magazine article states: “During the 1980s, women will play a greater part in the distribution of insurance products... Currently the percentage of women in the agency forces has increased dramatically, due primarily to social and government pressures and good experience with women in sales”.

2006-2016

Women make up about 61% of the insurance industry workforce each year.

2016

Tricia Griffith is named CEO of Progressive – one of the largest providers of car insurance in the U.S. In 2018, she becomes the first woman to be named Fortune’s Businessperson of the Year.

