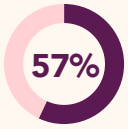
obesity is a **women's health issue**

leading health experts recognize that obesity is a chronic, treatable disease that impacts women's health

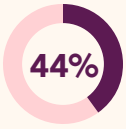


Obesity affects **1 in 3 American women**.[1]

Obesity is more likely to affect women of color, impacting:



57% of **Black women**[2]



44% of **Hispanic women**[2]

women living with obesity are also more likely to face harmful social stigma and discrimination



At work, women affected by obesity **earn less money** than their colleagues.[12]



Women living with obesity are **less likely to get promoted** at work.[13]



69% of women living with obesity face bias from healthcare providers.[14]

obesity has a significant impact on women's health across every stage of life

Obesity is associated with **over 200 other health complications**,[3] including:

- Diabetes[4]
- Cardiovascular disease[5]
- Breast, ovarian and endometrial cancers[6]
- Anxiety, depression and other mental health issues[7]
- Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)[8]
- Fertility and maternal health challenges[8]
- More severe menopause symptoms[9]



Nearly **25% of women** in the US who become pregnant have obesity.[10]



70% of perimenopausal women have overweight or obesity.[11]

comprehensive obesity care is an important part of women's health

Comprehensive obesity care includes:

- Counseling or intensive behavioral therapy
- Behavior modification and physical activity
- Obesity management medication
- Weight loss surgeries
- Nutrition or dietician services



Nearly **3 in 4 women** using lifestyle modifications are not able to lose weight and keep it off.[15]

everybody covered
a campaign by women for obesity care coverage

a misunderstanding of obesity has kept care out of reach for many women

A lack of recognition that obesity is a chronic, treatable disease with serious consequences for women's health has created health insurance barriers that limit women's ability to receive the full range of evidence-based obesity care options, particularly medications.

About half of employers currently cover or are considering covering the latest generation of obesity management medications.[16]

The temporary **Medicare GLP-1 Bridge program** gives eligible beneficiaries access to certain obesity medications through December 2027, but permanent coverage is still needed.[17]

Only 10 state Medicaid programs cover obesity management medications: DE, KS, MI, MN, MS, MO, NC, TN, VA, and WI.*[18,19,20,21]

** Indiana announced expansion of obesity medication coverage through the CMS BALANCE model; implementation is pending.[22]*

every**body** deserves coverage for obesity care—**it's only fair**

Obesity is a chronic disease and comprehensive care should be covered to help people lose excess weight and reduce the potential risk of other chronic diseases. **Let's work together to improve access to obesity care for all.**



The EveryBODY Covered campaign is a program of the Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention. Support for the campaign has been provided by Eli Lilly & Company.

1 https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/adult-obesity-bysex/
2 https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-statistics/overweight-obesity
3 https://www.ama-assn.org/topics/obesity
4 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3066828/
5 https://nru.uncst.go.ug/bitstream/handle/123456789/8906/Metabolically healthy overweightobesity are associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease in adults, even in the absence of metabolic risk factors A systematic review and meta-analysis of prospective cohort.pdf?sequence=1
6 https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/risk/obesity/obesity-fact-sheet
7 https://www.nature.com/articles/s41398-023-02447-w
8 https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/overweight-and-obesity/women
9 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2768523/
10 https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30881701/
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12 https://www.economist.com/finance-and-economics/2023/11/23/the-obesity-pay-gap-is-worse-than-previously-thought
13 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6452122/
14 https://www.obesityaction.org/wp-content/uploads/Weight-Bias-in-Healthcare1.pdf
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