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



44% of Hispanic women²

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:

- Diabetes⁴
- Cardiovascular disease⁵
- Breast, ovarian and endometrial cancers⁶
- Anxiety, depression and other mental health issues⁷
- Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)⁸
- Fertility and maternal health challenges⁸
- More severe menopause symptoms⁹



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



70% of perimenopausal women have overweight or obesity.¹¹

women 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 with obesity are **less likely to get promoted** at work.¹³



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

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 medications
- ✓ 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



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 medications.¹⁶



does not cover obesity medications.¹⁷



Only 14 states currently cover obesity or weight loss medications: CA, CT, DE, HI, KS, MA, MI, MN, MS, NH, PA, RI, VA, WI.¹⁸

everybody 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.**



Support for the campaign has been provided by Eli Lilly & Co.

- 1 https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/adult-obesity-bysex/
- 2 https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/health-statistics/overweightobesity
- 3 https://www.ama-assn.org/topics/obesity
- 4 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3066828/
- 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/
- 11 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8373626/
- 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/
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- 17 https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?ncdid=38&ncdver=3&chapter=all&sortBy=title&bc=18
- 18 https://stop.publichealth.gwu.edu/coverage/medicaid-2024

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