

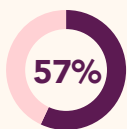
# obesity is a **women's health issue**

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

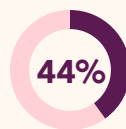


Obesity affects **1 in 3 American women.**<sup>1</sup>

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



57% of **Black women**<sup>2</sup>



44% of **Hispanic women**<sup>2</sup>

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

Obesity is associated with **over 200 other health complications**,<sup>3</sup> including:

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



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



**70% of perimenopausal women** have overweight or obesity.<sup>11</sup>

**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.<sup>12</sup>



Women living with obesity are **less likely to get promoted** at work.<sup>13</sup>



**69% of women living with obesity** face bias from healthcare providers.<sup>14</sup>

**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.<sup>15</sup>

## 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.<sup>16</sup>



Medicare currently **does not cover** obesity management medications.<sup>17</sup>



**Only 15 states** Medicaid programs cover obesity management or weight loss medications: CA, CT, DE, HI, KS, MA, MI, MN, MS, NH, PA, RI, SC, VA, and WI.<sup>18,19</sup>

## 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.**



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 & Co.

1 <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/adult-obesity-bysex/>

2 <https://www.nidck.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](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/>

14 <https://www.obesityaction.org/wp-content/uploads/Weight-Bias-in-Healthcare1.pdf>

15 <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1555605/>

16 <https://www.ifebp.org/docs/default-source/pdf/resources---news/pulse-surveys/survey-glp-drugs-2024.pdf>

17 <https://www.cms.gov/medicare-coverage-database/view/ncd.aspx?ncdid=38&ncdver=3&chapter=all&sortBy=title&bc=18>

18 [https://southcarolina.fhsc.com/downloads/provider/SCRx\\_PAcriteria\\_weight\\_mgmt.pdf](https://southcarolina.fhsc.com/downloads/provider/SCRx_PAcriteria_weight_mgmt.pdf)

19 <https://stop.publichealth.gwu.edu/coverage/medicaid-2024>

join the movement at  
[www.everyBODYcovered.org](http://www.everyBODYcovered.org)

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