



**Status of  
Women's Health  
in Mississippi**  
GRADE: Fail  
RANK: 51<sup>st</sup>

## **MISSISSIPPI**

### **Must Focus on Women's Health**

*Making the Grade on Women's Health: A National and State-by-State Report Card* by the National Women's Law Center and Oregon Health & Science University finds that necessary health care is absent for too many women and better access to health insurance is needed.

#### **Women in Mississippi lack necessary health care.**

- Women in Mississippi have the poorest health status among all women in the nation.
- Mississippi has the highest percentage of people living in medically underserved areas; nearly 3 in 10 people live in an area with reduced access to primary care physicians.
- 1 in 3 women over age 40 has not had a mammogram within the past two years.

#### **Women in Mississippi suffer negative health outcomes.**

- Mississippi has the highest percentage of women who suffer from high blood pressure.
- An alarming 15 out of 100,000 women in Mississippi die during childbirth.
- Mississippi has the highest prevalence of women with chlamydia among all states.
- The state has the second-highest infant mortality rate in the nation; a staggering 10 infants die for every 1,000 live births.
- Mississippi has the most obese women in the nation; over 3 in 10 women are obese.

#### **Given the poor health status of Mississippi women, the state should enact and maintain policies to help women gain access to health coverage and care.**

- Mississippi should raise Medicaid eligibility for families. Working parents earning more than \$5,496 (33% of the federal poverty level (FPL) for a family of three) and pregnant women earning more than \$29,767 (185% of FPL) are not eligible for Medicaid coverage.
- Marking some progress, Mississippi ensures family planning coverage for low-income women. The state has secured a federal waiver to expand Medicaid coverage for family planning services.

The 2007 *Report Card* compares the nation and individual states to goals set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2010 agenda. The health status of women across the country needs significant improvement.