



**Status of
Women's Health
in Texas**
GRADE: Fail
RANK: 42nd

TEXAS

Must Focus on Women's Health for Health Care Reform

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.

Necessary health care is absent for too many women in Texas.

- Texas ranks worst in the nation with the highest percentage of women without health insurance; almost 3 in 10 Texan women are uninsured.
- Nearly 1 in 3 women over age 40 has not had a mammogram within the past two years.
- Texas ranks 49th in the nation for screening women age 50 and over for colorectal cancer.
- Nearly 1 in 5 women over age 18 has not had a Pap smear within the past three years.

Given the high percentage of uninsured women, Texas should enact policies to help women gain access to health coverage and care. While the state has made some progress in ensuring that low-income women receive care, there are considerably more steps to be taken.

- Texas should raise Medicaid eligibility for families. Working parents earning more than \$4,822 (29% 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.
- Texas should pass health care reform that would expand coverage for all.
- As a good first step, Texas 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.



For more information,
complete report findings are online at
<http://hrc.nwlc.org>

