



**Status of**  
**Women's Health**  
**in West Virginia**  
GRADE: Fail  
RANK: 47<sup>th</sup>

## **WEST VIRGINIA**

### **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.

#### **Necessary health care is absent for too many women in West Virginia.**

- ♦ 1 in 5 women lacks health insurance, which is worse than the national average of 18 percent.
- ♦ More than 30 percent of Hispanic women and nearly 25 percent of Black women are uninsured.
- ♦ About 15 percent of women in West Virginia do not receive prenatal care in their first trimester
- ♦ An alarming 11 out of 100,000 women die during childbirth.

**Given the high percentage of uninsured women, West Virginia 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.**

- ♦ West Virginia should raise Medicaid eligibility for families. Working parents earning above \$5,992 (36% of Federal Poverty Level for a family of three) are not eligible for Medicaid coverage.
- ♦ West Virginia should raise Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women. Pregnant women earning above \$24,135 (150% of Federal Poverty Level for a family of three) are not eligible for Medicaid coverage.
- ♦ West Virginia should ensure family planning coverage for low-income women. The state has not secured a waiver to expand Medicaid coverage for family planning services.
- ♦ West Virginia should improve health care access for non-English speakers. The state fails to provide adequate interpretation and translation services.

The 2007 *Report Card* compares the nation and individual states to goals primarily 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>

