



# WOMEN'S HEALTH & WELL-BEING: ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE, QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE CARE

**Women's Health & Well-being** is directly linked to their ability to access affordable healthcare and reproductive health.

Based on the analysis of five core Health & Well-being metrics, gender disparities widened over the past decade.

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## THE HEALTH & WELL-BEING SCORE IS CALCULATED USING FIVE METRICS:

- **Health Insurance:** In 2021, 87% of women had health insurance coverage, compared to 85% of men.
- **Maternal Morbidity:** Maternal morbidity rates have fluctuated significantly over the past decade, with the highest recorded at 25.3 per 1,000 delivery hospitalizations in 2020.
- **Infant Mortality:** The infant infant mortality rate was 4 per 1,000 births in 2021, with the highest at 5.2 in 2016.
- **Disability:** In 2021, more women (11%) than men (10%) had disabilities, primarily tied to longer life expectancy and age-related factors.
- **Teenage Pregnancy:** Over the past decade, the rate of teenage pregnancies has steadily declined, showing a 66% decrease since 2010.

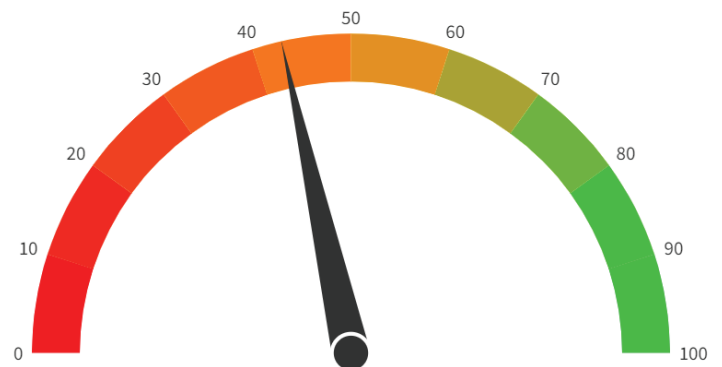
## BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S POSITIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES:

- **Access to Quality and Affordable Healthcare:** Women face barriers to coverage regardless of their insured status. Women who lack access to private health insurance must rely on public insurance like Medicaid to cover costs, especially during pregnancy.
- **Maternal Health:** Poor maternal health is related to the lack of quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare. Many pregnant people and mothers covered by public health insurance lack coverage before pregnancy.
- **Reproductive Health and Rights:** After the overturn of Roe v. Wade in 2022, Florida started restricting and/or banning access to abortion and reproductive healthcare, with a 15-week abortion ban currently in place and a 6-week ban passing in 2023.
- **Transportation:** A lack of transportation access is a barrier to healthcare among low-income, elderly, rural, and urban populations and contributes to poor health outcomes.

- **Climate Change and Environmental Factors:** Miami-Dade County is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change including an increased risk of extreme heat, hurricane impact, and sea-level rise. Climate change, a social determinant of health, contributes to poor maternal and reproductive health.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Access to Quality and Affordable Health Care:** Ensure equitable access to care, starting with the expansion of Medicaid in Florida, improving the content of care, and addressing the bias and discrimination women experience when seeking care.
- **Maternal Health:** With the help of community partners and stakeholders, develop a 5-year plan to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity rates county-wide, including the expansion of doula care, and the provision of culturally competent care.
- **Reproductive Rights:** Support the current initiative from Floridians Protecting Freedom to include abortion access on the 2024 ballot.
- **Extreme Heat and Pregnancy Health:** Raise awareness and allocate funding for weatherization and affordable energy access, especially to low and moderate-income families, and enhance the capacity of resilience offices in Miami-Dade, City of Miami, and Miami Beach to address climate change impacts.



The Miami-Dade score was 43 points in 2021.

For more details on Health & Well-Being, make sure to read the full policy paper [here](#).

The Gender Equity Index score for 2021 was 51 points.