

STATUS OF KENTUCKY WOMEN'S HEALTH

In 2024, the Kentucky Commission on Women released a report assessing the status of women and girls throughout the commonwealth. While this publication provided essential data on government representation, business ownership, workforce participation, earnings, and education, the health-related information included was only a small fraction of the data collected. Subsequently, the Commission collaborated with the Division of Women's Health within the Kentucky Department for Public Health to develop this more comprehensive health status report. For demographic context, in 2024, women made up approximately 51% of Kentucky's total population, with an estimated 2.3 million women out of a total population of 4.6 million people living in the state.

Kentucky Women's Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity

- White.....82%
- Black.....7%
- Hispanic.....5%
- Asian.....2%
- American Indian/Alaska Native.....2%

Insurance Coverage: Kentucky Women Ages 19-64 [2024]

- Employer-Provided.....57.1%
- Medicaid.....25.5%
- **UNINSURED**.....8.0%
- Non-Group.....5.4%
- Other.....4.0%

Kentucky Women's Cancer Mortality [2018-22]

- Lung Cancer.....6808 deaths
- Breast Cancer....3159 deaths
- Colon Cancer.....2011 deaths
- Cervical Cancer...375 deaths

These four types of cancers account for more than half of all cancer-related deaths in the commonwealth. Kentucky has the highest cancer mortality rate in the nation among women.

Women's Health Indicators

Percentage of Kentucky women ages 18-44 who reported **smoking** at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and **currently smoke** daily or some days. [2021-2022]

22.2%

Percentage of Kentucky women ages 18-44 who reported having a **body mass index of 30 or higher** based on reported height and weight. [2021-2022]

39.1%

Percentage of Kentucky women ages 18-44 who reported being told by a health professional they had angina or coronary **heart disease, a heart attack or myocardial infarction or a stroke**. [2021-2022]

2.6%

Percentage of Kentucky women ages 18+ who reported having **diabetes**. [2023]

15.11%



21.7%

of Kentucky women ages 18-44 reported their **mental health was not good** 14 or more days in the past 30 days. [2022-2023]



40.8%

of Kentucky women ages 18-44 reported being told by a health professional they had a **depressive disorder**. [2022-20223]



45.5%

of Kentucky women reported experiencing domestic violence or stalking in their lifetime. [2022]



42.8%

of live births in Kentucky were covered by Medicaid, totaling 22,375. [2024]

Kentucky Perinatal & Maternal Data

- Kentucky ranks **46th** in the nation for maternity care access. [2024]
- **16.7%** of Kentucky women live in **maternity care deserts**. [2024]
- **8,499** babies – 16.3% of all births – were born in maternity care deserts. [2023]

Perinatal Mental Health [2017-2021]

Perinatal refers to the period encompassing pregnancy, the birth itself, and the time immediately following, generally a year after.

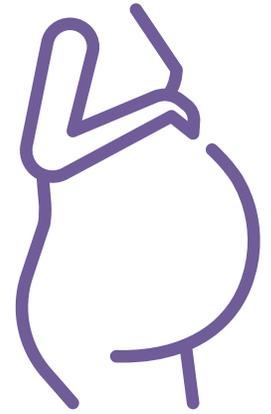
- **21.4%** of new Kentucky mothers were not screened for **depression or anxiety**, and **78.6%** were screened.
- **14.6%*** were told they had depression and **85.4%** reported never being told.

**Of the mothers diagnosed with depression, 43% received counseling and 60% were prescribed medication for treatment.*

Maternal Mortality [2017-2022]

Maternal death is when a pregnant or birthing person dies during pregnancy or up to 42 days after the end of pregnancy from health problems related to pregnancy. Maternal death and maternal mortality are the same thing.

- **21%** were pregnancy-related deaths.
- **89%** of maternal deaths were preventable.
- **33%** had mental health as a contributing factor.



Kentucky Girls, Teens & Youth Data

This information is from the 2023 Kentucky Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) administered to a randomly selected sample of high school students across the commonwealth to monitor students' health-risk behaviors in six priority areas. These behaviors contribute to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth and adults in the country.

41.6%
of Kentucky high school girls reported feeling **sad or hopeless** almost every day for 2 weeks in a row so that they stopped doing some usual activities.

30.1%
of Kentucky high school girls reported their **mental health was most of the time or always not good** (including stress, anxiety and depression).

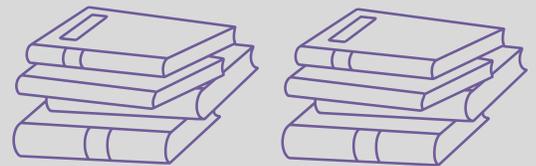
14.2%
of Kentucky high school girls reported **taking prescription pain medicine without a prescription** or differently than how a doctor told them to use it one or more times during their life.



22.7%
of Kentucky high school girls reported seriously **considering attempting suicide**.

16.6%
of Kentucky high school girls reported **making a plan** about how they would attempt suicide.

9.4%
of Kentucky high school girls reported **attempting suicide**.



KENTUCKY COMMISSION ON
WOMEN
Office of the Governor

www.women.ky.gov



Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dwh/Pages/whrc.aspx



The **Kentucky Commission on Women** and **Division of Women's Health** recognize the data represented in this document is not a comprehensive representation of every woman in Kentucky and that it does not address any disparities that may be identified upon a deeper review. This information, as well as sources and citations, can be found at women.ky.gov.