

eliminating racism empowering women

ywca

Health Care

Quality, affordable health care is critical to the well-being of women, children and people of color. Today, however, many people in the United States have inadequate health care coverage or do not have health coverage at all. Those who have health care coverage often find that their coverage is limited and does not cover certain procedures, treatments, tests or medicines they need. Others find themselves unable to afford the care they need. While many individuals and families have inadequate health care coverage, millions more individuals are uninsured, forcing them also to suffer from insufficient care or receive no health care at all.

As a result of the crisis in our nation's health care system, health care reform is a major national issue. Reforming the nation's health care system will involve discussions and decisions on critical issues including access to health care, health care quality, and health care affordability.

Three additional health care issues especially important to women include reproductive health care services, health care disparities that affect people of color, and ensuring that special populations including the elderly, chronically ill women and men, low-income children and women, and children living in poverty continue to have access to care through programs including Medicare, Medicaid, and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

VIEW POINTS

There is a general consensus that the United State's health care system is in need of reform. However, there are varying ideas on what the reform agenda should and should not include, how to best provide health care to the millions of people who are uninsured including individuals living in poverty, and how to best improve health care for the millions more who have health care but find it too little or too costly.

YWCA POSITION

The YWCA supports quality, affordable, health care. The YWCA supports a strong health care safety net that includes Medicaid, Medicare and State Health Insurance programs; making health care available to people who are uninsured; making health care more affordable; and the promotion of equity in health care access, treatment, and research.