

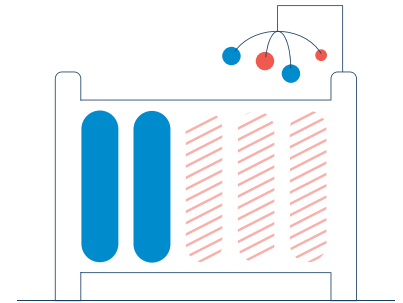
# MEDICAID & MATERNAL HEALTH: WHAT'S AT STAKE



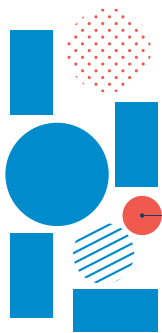
## Medicaid Supports Healthy Moms and Healthy Babies

*When women are enrolled in Medicaid before and after birth, they experience less depression, lower mortality, and their infants have healthier birth outcomes.*

Medicaid covers over  
**2** of every **5**  
births in the  
United States



## MEDICAID IS ESSENTIAL IN ADDRESSING THE US MATERNAL MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY CRISIS

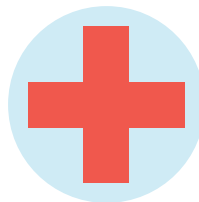


The United States is home to more than **11 million babies**

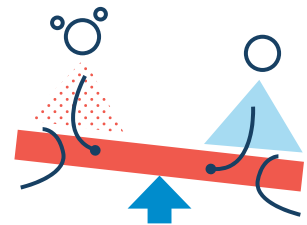
- ▶ The United States has maternal mortality rates far surpassing other developed countries, at **19.3 in 100,000 live births.**
- ▶ Women accessing Medicaid get the timely care they need: **82% had a timely perinatal care visit and 75% had a timely postpartum care visit.**

## Ensure Medicaid Can Continue to Support Perinatal and Child Health

Forty-eight states and the District of Columbia have lengthened their Medicaid benefit to cover women from **60 days to 12 months** after the birth of a child.



Medicaid extension during pregnancy is associated with **lower rates of fetal death, infant death, preterm birth, and low birth weight, as well as higher child insurance coverage.**



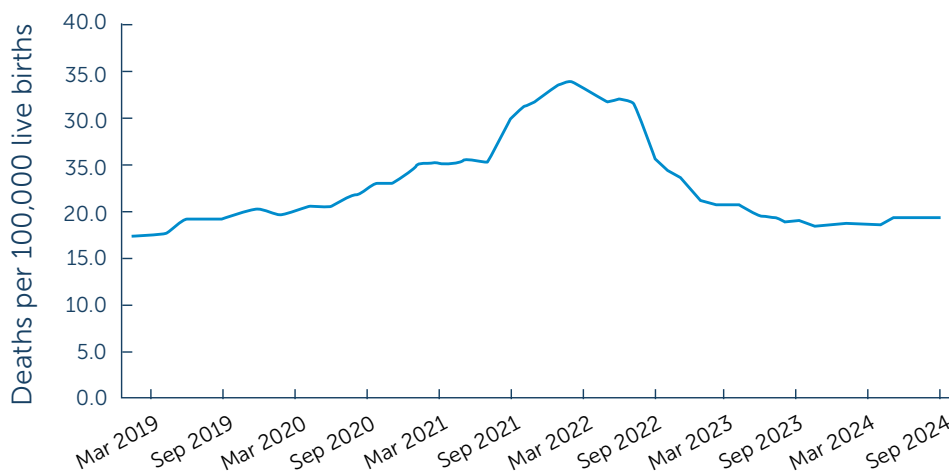
Later in life, the benefits of prenatal Medicaid coverage lead to **better health, educational and economic outcomes among children born with Medicaid.**

“ At 20 weeks pregnant, I was diagnosed with lymphoma. I had my son a month early, and started chemotherapy 5 days later. After the trauma of that experience, I found mental health care and my son spent his first month in the NICU. Medicaid allowed us to get the care we needed.  
— Megan N., Maine

**Maternal mortality is a nationwide crisis – we need Medicaid to get moms the care they need.**



of women enrolled in Medicaid were screened for postpartum depression, addressing a leading cause of maternal mortality.



CDC National Center for Health Statistics, Provisional Maternal Mortality Rates, 2025  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/provisional-maternal-deaths-rates.htm>

**Medicaid is a vital state/federal partnership with both contributing resources and states having flexibility in how they design and administer their programs.** Proposals to reduce federal support for Medicaid, including through “per capita caps”, reductions in “federal match rates”, or proposals targeting eligibility for adults will not only strip health care from millions of Americans – it will shift millions of dollars of costs to states.. Parental coverage carries over to kids, too: as we have learned from the Medicaid expansion, when parents are enrolled, children are covered at higher rates and receive more regular check-ups, with the potential to prevent more serious conditions before they occur.

**States will be forced to make decisions that could include:**

- ▶ Further rolling back Medicaid eligibility, reducing the number of babies, toddlers, and parents who receive health care;
- ▶ Decreasing benefits and access to services, as states may limit or eliminate coverage of certain treatments such as maternal depression screening;
- ▶ Shift costs to families, who will be unable to afford care or be forced into medical debt.
- ▶ Cut other essential programs to fill holes in state budgets, such as child care, child welfare agencies, and nutrition assistance – directly threatening the health, safety, and well-being of babies across the country.

ZERO TO THREE works to ensure all babies and toddlers benefit from the family and community connections critical to their well-being and development. Since 1977, the organization has advanced the proven power of nurturing relationships by transforming the science of early childhood into helpful resources, practical tools and responsive policies for millions of parents, professionals and policymakers

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