

Medicaid Coverage for Pregnancy Care



Medicaid is a critical program for pregnant and postpartum patients. Currently, Medicaid **covers more than 40 percent of births nationally**, and 19 percent of adult women are enrolled in Medicaid. Together with the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid provides more than 1.5 million low-income women access to the pre- and postnatal care that is essential to healthy pregnancies and healthy infants.

Potential State Responses to Altering the Federal-State Cost Sharing Structure

To address budget shortfalls, states may choose to lower Medicaid and CHIP income eligibility limits for pregnant women or eliminate the life-saving postpartum extension.

Further, reductions in federal support could force states to reduce Medicaid provider reimbursement rates, causing clinicians to leave the program or limit the number of Medicaid patients they care for.

Impact of Changing Program Eligibility or Enacting Barriers to Enrollment

Medicaid cuts that reduce program eligibility or erect barriers to enrollment threaten to increase uncompensated care and attendant medical debt, which could accelerate closure of labor and delivery units in rural and underserved communities.

Additional closures would increase the number of maternity deserts, counties with limited or no access to maternity care, across the United States.

Percent of Births Financed by Medicaid in 2023:

