

Extending Medicaid to 12 Months Postpartum



The Problem: Maternal mortality is a major problem across the United States, including in Missouri, and serious health problems continue to pose risks well after labor and delivery. The window of time between six weeks and one year postpartum is where many pregnancy-associated deaths occur (see [Quick Stats](#)).

This issue disproportionately impacts pregnant and parenting people of color. In Missouri, Black pregnant and parenting people experience more than 4x the rate of pregnancy-associated deaths and 2.3x the rate of severe maternal morbidity compared to white pregnant and parenting people.

The Solution: Extend Medicaid coverage to a full year postpartum. This solution is backed by Missouri's state maternal mortality review committee, the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, as well as multiple health plans and consumer advocacy groups.

What are the benefits to pregnant and parenting people and their babies? Some of the most dangerous pregnancy-related health problems can happen months after delivery, and people who have access to health insurance use health care services more frequently and have better health outcomes. Patients' abilities to stay with the health care providers that know their health history also prevents disruptions in care.

What are the benefits to health care costs? Severe maternal morbidity costs billions of dollars every year. If parents are able to maintain Medicaid coverage, many of these conditions could be treated before becoming more dangerous and costly. If extended, Missouri would not need to conduct any kind of eligibility redetermination process; coverage could continue automatically, so an extension would not create any new administrative burden for the state or the parent.

Quick Stats

44th Missouri ranks **44th in the nation** for maternal mortality

4x as many deaths **occur between 43 days and one year postpartum** as during pregnancy



Many maternal mortalities are **due to lack of access** to postpartum healthcare

80%

of pregnancy-associated deaths in MO **are preventable**



40% of all pregnancies in MO are paid for by Medicaid



People who have access to health insurance use health care services more frequently and **have better health outcomes**

The Bottom Line



Expanding postpartum Medicaid coverage **would provide vital health care** to patients that are highly vulnerable to serious health challenges



Generate Health mobilizes and inspires the St. Louis region to advance racial equity in pregnancy outcomes, family well-being, and community health.