

Extended Postpartum Medicaid Coverage

Healthy Moms = Healthy Babies

HB 2280 (Haefner)

GOAL:

To extend MO HealthNet benefits to new mothers who qualify for services from 60 days to 12-24 months, with particular consideration given to those new mothers with mental and behavioral health issues, including substance use.

An estimated **15 to 21 percent** of pregnant women experience moderate to severe symptoms of depression or anxiety.⁶ Early intervention can translate into **lifelong benefits** for moms and their kids.

Access to family planning services, which are included in MO HealthNet benefits, plays a key role in birth spacing and reduced risk for **poor birth outcomes**, such as preterm birth and low birth weight.¹

Uninsured women and their newborns receive, on average, less prenatal care and **fewer perinatal services**.²

Infants of uninsured women are **more likely to die** than those of insured women.²

The Missouri Family Support Division determined that approximately **24,000** women annually lose their MO HealthNet coverage postpartum.⁵

MO HealthNet Extension as a Solution to the Opioid Epidemic in Missouri

According to a recent Missouri Hospital Association report, Missouri has seen a **538% increase** in babies born addicted to opiates in the last 10 years.³ Extending MO HealthNet services by 12-24 months would provide **more positive outcomes** for families struggling with substance use disorders.

Generally, for residential or outpatient treatment, participation for **less than 90 days is of limited effectiveness**, and treatment lasting significantly longer is recommended for maintaining positive outcomes.⁴

Citations

- 1) March of Dimes. "Birth spacing and birth outcomes fact sheet." November 2015. Retrieved from:
<https://www.marchofdimes.org/MOD-Birth-Spacing-Factsheet-November-2015.pdf>
- 2) Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on the Consequences of Uninsurance. Health Insurance is a Family Matter. Washington (DC): National Academies Press (US); 2002. 6, Health-Related Outcomes for Children, Pregnant Women, and Newborns. Retrieved from:
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK221019/>
- 3) Helmuth, Josh. "New study: MO babies born with opioid addiction increased 538%." KSHB Kansas City. Retrieved from:
<https://www.kshb.com/news/local-news/new-study-mo-babies-born-with-opioid-addiction-increased-538>
- 4) National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2018, January 17). Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-Based Guide (Third Edition). Retrieved from
<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/principles-drug-addiction-treatment-research-based-guide-third-edition>
- 5) *The FSD estimates that annually 32,946 participants currently lose postpartum coverage after 60 days each year. 9,286 of these participants would move to other full benefit assistance programs, leaving 23,660 postpartum participants and 204 Show-Me Healthy Baby participants each year without coverage.*
- 6) Wisner KL, Sit DKY, McShea MC, Rizzo DM, Zoretich RA, Hughes CL, Eng HF, Luther JF, Wisniewski SR, Costantino ML, Confer AL, Moses-Kolko EL, Famy CS, Hanusa BH. Onset Timing, Thoughts of Self-harm, and Diagnoses in Postpartum Women With Screen-Positive Depression Findings. JAMA Psychiatry. 2013;70(5):490–498. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2013.87