



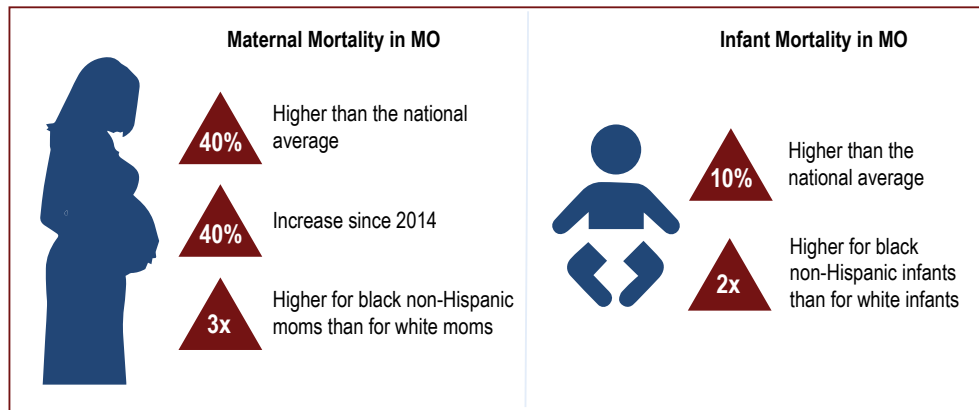
Medicaid is Key to Maternal & Infant Health

When women have access to quality, affordable health care before, during, and after pregnancy, both mothers and babies are able to thrive. Yet nearly 1 in 7 Missouri women of childbearing age are uninsured, leaving women vulnerable to lapses in care – particularly in the periods immediately before and after pregnancy when eligibility for Medicaid is most restrictive.ⁱ

Women who are insured before pregnancy are better able to address health conditions or health behaviors, such as heart disease or smoking, that are associated with adverse outcomes during pregnancy and birth. Similarly, women who are insured after birth are better able to address physical and emotional complications which can often persist for up to a year postpartum.ⁱⁱ

Missouri Has a Maternal & Infant Health Crisis

- Both maternal and infant mortality in Missouri are above the national average and higher than most other states.
- Maternal mortality has increased by 40% in just the past few years and is higher than all but 6 other states in the nation.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Stark racial disparities exist in both maternal and infant mortality, with black moms and babies dying at higher rates than white moms.



Medicaid is Key To Improving Maternal & Infant Health

- Nearly 2 in 5 births in Missouri are covered by Medicaid, making it a key source of care, particularly among women of color.^{iv}
- Medicaid provides a comprehensive package of benefits that can support both new moms and their babies, including substance abuse treatment, screening and treatment for depression as well as tobacco cessation benefits without cost-sharing for pregnant women.^v

While Medicaid coverage for pregnant women in Missouri ensures that many low-income women are covered during pregnancy and birth, Missouri's restrictive Medicaid eligibility for parents and childless adults means that many of these same women are uninsured in the critical periods before and after birth.

- Nearly 13% of new moms in Missouri are uninsured, a rate higher than all but 11 states in the nation.^{vi}
- Missouri's Medicaid eligibility for low-income parents is the 3rd most restrictive in the nation at \$388 per month for a family of 3 and is the lowest level allowed under federal law; childless adults are ineligible entirely.
- Missouri limits postpartum coverage to the minimum of 60 days postpartum required by federal law.

Expanding Medicaid in Missouri would ensure that women of childbearing age with low incomes have consistent, comprehensive health coverage. This would improve the health of Missouri moms and babies and would be a critical first step in reducing racial disparities in maternal and infant health.

Expanded Medicaid Coverage in Other States Benefits Moms & Babies

Evidence from states that have already expanded Medicaid shows that Medicaid Expansion has many benefits for maternal and infant health, including:^{vii}

- Higher rates of health coverage among new moms and low-income women of childbearing age.
- Improvements in both prenatal & postpartum care.
- Declines in maternal & infant mortality.

- i. Searing, A., & Ross, D. C. (2019). Medicaid Expansion Fills Gaps in Maternal Health Coverage Leading to Healthier Mothers and Babies.
- ii. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019) Pregnancy-related deaths: Saving women's lives before, during and after delivery.
- iii. America's Health Rankings (2019) Health of Women & Children Report.
- iv. Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (2020) Medicaid's Role in Financing Maternity Care.
- v. Searing, A., & Ross, D. C. (2019). Medicaid Expansion Fills Gaps in Maternal Health Coverage Leading to Healthier Mothers and Babies.
- vi. McMorrow et al. (2020) Extending Postpartum Medicaid Coverage Beyond 60 Days Could Benefit Over 200,000 Low-Income Uninsured Citizen New Mothers.
- vii. Clark (2020) Solution to Maternal Health Crisis Must Center on Medicaid. Georgetown Center for Children and Families. Also Searing, A., & Ross, D.C. (2019).