



# Medicaid's Role in Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis

## BY THE NUMBERS



Medicaid covers **nearly half** of all births in the U.S.

Medicaid provides an essential safety net for **16%** of non-elderly women in the United States, including **41%** of low-income women, **36%** of single mothers.

Medicaid serves a lower income population with greater underlying health risks. Medicaid enrollees have an **82% higher chance** of maternal mortality and morbidity than privately insured women.

Medicaid expansion is strongly associated with **lower maternal mortality**.

States that expanded Medicaid were found to have **lower maternal mortality** by about **7 deaths per 100,000 live births** compared to non-expansion states.

**31 states** deliver coverage to expansion adults through Medicaid Managed Care, encompassing the vast majority of this population.

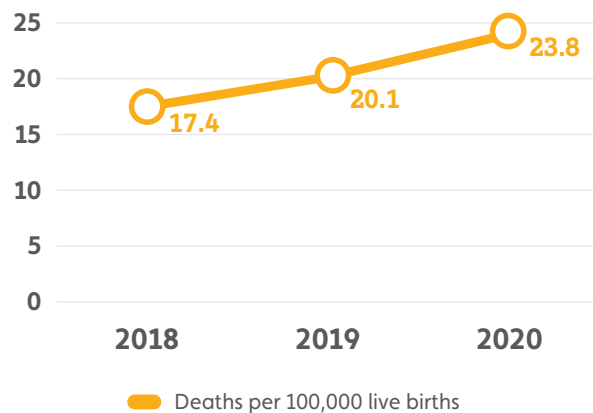


## AMERICA'S MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS

In 2018, the U.S. **ranked last** among industrialized countries with the highest number of maternal deaths.

Nearly **18%** of pregnancy-related deaths occur between 43 and 365 days after delivery. Most of these deaths (58.3%) were **considered preventable**.

Maternal mortality has **increased significantly** in recent years:

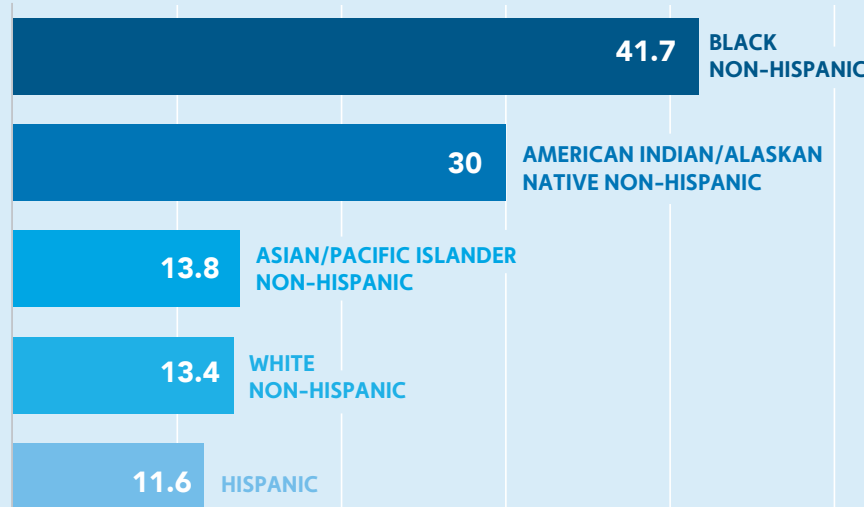


## DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT ON WOMEN OF COLOR



### Pregnancy-Related Deaths

Deaths Per 100,000 live births



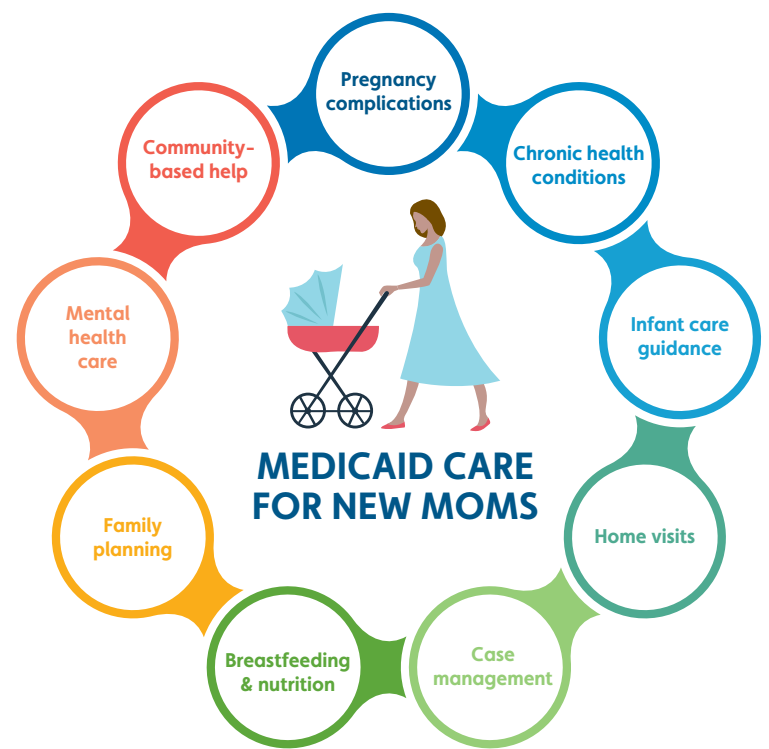
Black women are **3.3 times** more likely and American Indian/Alaska Native women are **2.5 times more likely** to die from pregnancy-related causes, compared to non-Hispanic White women.

**One-third** of the pregnant women and new mothers who died in 2020 were Black, though Black Americans make up about 12.4% of the population.

## MEDICAID PROGRAMS

### How Medicaid Programs Can Help Address The Maternal Health Crisis

Medicaid delivers high-quality, affordable health care that can support a comprehensive recovery from pregnancy and delivery. Importantly, Medicaid plans also cover mental health conditions, the **second leading cause of mortality** in the later postpartum period.



## Experts Agree: Medicaid Maternal Health Coverage Should Be Expanded to 12 Months Postpartum



"Women have significant medical needs through the first year after delivery, including higher rates of maternal mortality than during pregnancy or childbirth and postpartum depression which can take months to both appear and resolve. By extending Medicaid maternal health coverage to one year postpartum, Congress would improve the health and well-being of both mothers and their children, and reduce racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes."

– Gloria Eldridge, PhD, Divisional Vice President, Health Policy of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC)

## Modern Medicaid Alliance Urges Congress to Extend Postpartum Coverage, Strengthen Medicaid

Extending postpartum Medicaid coverage to one year after delivery has the potential to help a total of approximately **720,000 low-income mothers annually**, and address rising maternal mortality rates and disparities in health outcomes.



For more information on the Modern Medicaid Alliance, visit [ModernMedicaid.org](https://ModernMedicaid.org).