

# From Maternal Health to Long-Term Care: Medicaid is Vital for Women’s Lifelong Health

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Medicaid is a cornerstone of women’s health in the United States, serving as a lifeline for millions. Currently, 24 million women are enrolled in Medicaid, 56 percent of whom are in their reproductive years and over half of whom are women of color.<sup>i</sup> As the nation’s largest payer for maternal health, Medicaid is essential to improving outcomes for mothers and infants nationwide. Beyond maternity care, Medicaid ensures access to preventive services like cancer and chronic disease screenings, family planning, and long-term care for aging women and women with disabilities, making it a vital program for supporting women’s health across their lifespan. Medicaid coverage is also connected with increased financial stability.<sup>ii</sup> Congressional attacks on Medicaid funding, coverage, or the program’s structure will jeopardize women’s health across the country.

- Nearly 24 million women aged 19 and older are enrolled in Medicaid.
- Medicaid disproportionately covers women of color including:
  - 4.4 million Black women;
  - 5.7 million Latinas; and
  - 1.4 million AANHPI women.

	Number of women enrolled in Medicaid	Number of reproductive-age women enrolled in Medicaid
<b>All women</b>	23,929,900	13,311,000
<b>Black women</b>	4,404,700	2,575,700
<b>Latinas</b>	5,660,000	3,629,500
<b>AANHPI women</b>	1,418,300	642,800
<b>White women</b>	11,089,600	5,582,400

Source: National Partnership calculations using American Community Survey 2023 data. Totals may differ from administrative data. All women are 19 and older, reproductive-age women are ages 19-49. Racial groups do not include Latinas who are analyzed separately.

- Medicaid finances 41 percent of births nationwide.<sup>iii</sup> Medicaid plays an even larger role in some states, including:
  - Arizona: 46 percent of births
  - Florida: 44 percent of births
  - Georgia: 46 percent of births
  - Louisiana: 61 percent of births
  - Mississippi: 57 percent of births
  - New Mexico: 55 percent of births
  - Oklahoma: 51 percent of births
  - West Virginia: 48 percent of births

- Medicaid is a keystone in addressing our nation’s maternal health racial inequities. In 2021, Medicaid covered 64 percent of deliveries among Black mothers and 58 percent among Hispanic mothers.<sup>iv</sup>
- Medicaid is the largest payer for family planning services for low-income people.<sup>v</sup>
- Medicaid is a lifeline for key preventive health care for women. In addition to the preventive care provided to the millions of core eligibility enrollees, the Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Program (BCCTP) has been a shining example of how Medicaid can impact public health. In 2023, the BCCTP:
  - Delivered breast cancer screening and diagnostic care to nearly 274,000 women, leading to the detection of close to 2,000 invasive breast cancers and almost 700 premalignant breast lesions.
  - Conducted cervical cancer screening and diagnostic services for 129,100 women, identifying nearly 90 cases of invasive cervical cancer and 6,200 premalignant cervical lesions, 34 percent of which were classified as high-grade.<sup>vi</sup>
- Medicaid supports our nation’s rural hospitals, and Medicaid cuts threaten this vital lifeline for rural Americans. Rural hospital closures could also worsen existing maternal health deserts.<sup>vii</sup>
- In addition to its importance for preventive and maternal health care, Medicaid is vital for older women as well. It guarantees aging and disabled women access to long-term services and supports (LTSS). Medicaid pays for 44 percent of LTSS, making it the largest single payer in the U.S.<sup>viii</sup> Older women have a greater need than older men for Medicaid LTSS.<sup>ix</sup>

<sup>i</sup> National Partnership calculations using American Community Survey 2023 data. Totals may differ from administrative data. All women are 19 and older, reproductive-age women are 19-49. Racial groups do not include Latinas who are analyzed separately.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Office of Health Policy. (2024, September). *Medicaid: The Health and Economic Benefits of Expanding Eligibility* (Issue Brief). Retrieved 10 December 2024, from <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/effbde36dd9852a49d10e66e4a4ee333/medicaid-health-economic-benefits.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. *State Health Facts: Births Financed by Medicaid*. Retrieved 10 December 2024, from <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/births-financed-by-medicaid/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

<sup>iv</sup> Valenzuela, C. P., M.P.H., & Osterman, M. J. K., M.H.S. (2023, May). *Characteristics of Mothers by Source of Payment for the Delivery: United States, 2021* (Data Brief No. 468). Retrieved 10 December 2024, from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db468.pdf>

<sup>v</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation. (2022, February). *Medicaid Coverage of Family Planning Benefits: Findings from a 2021 State Survey*. Retrieved 10 December 2024, from <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/report/medicaid-coverage-of-family-planning-benefits-findings-from-a-2021-state-survey/#:~:text=Medicaid%20is%20the%20primary%20funding,the%20federal%20and%20state%20governments>

<sup>vi</sup> U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, September 19). *About the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program*. Retrieved 10 December 2024, from <https://www.cdc.gov/breast-cervical-cancer-screening/about/index.html>

<sup>vii</sup> Protect Our Care. (2024, April 8). *Fact sheet: Medicaid Works for Rural Americans*. Retrieved 10 December 2024, from <https://www.protectourcare.org/fact-sheet-medicaid-works-for-rural-americans-2/>

<sup>viii</sup> Congressional Research Service. (2023, September). *Who Pays for Long-Term Services and Supports?* Retrieved 10 December 2024, from <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF10343#:~:text=Medicaid%20is%20the%20largest%20single,44.3%25%20of%20all%20LTSS%20expenditures>

<sup>ix</sup> Justice in Aging & National Partnership for Women & Families. (2017). *Medicaid Caps and Cuts Harm Older Women*. Retrieved 10 December 2024, from <https://nationalpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/medicaid-caps-and-cuts-harm-older-women.pdf>