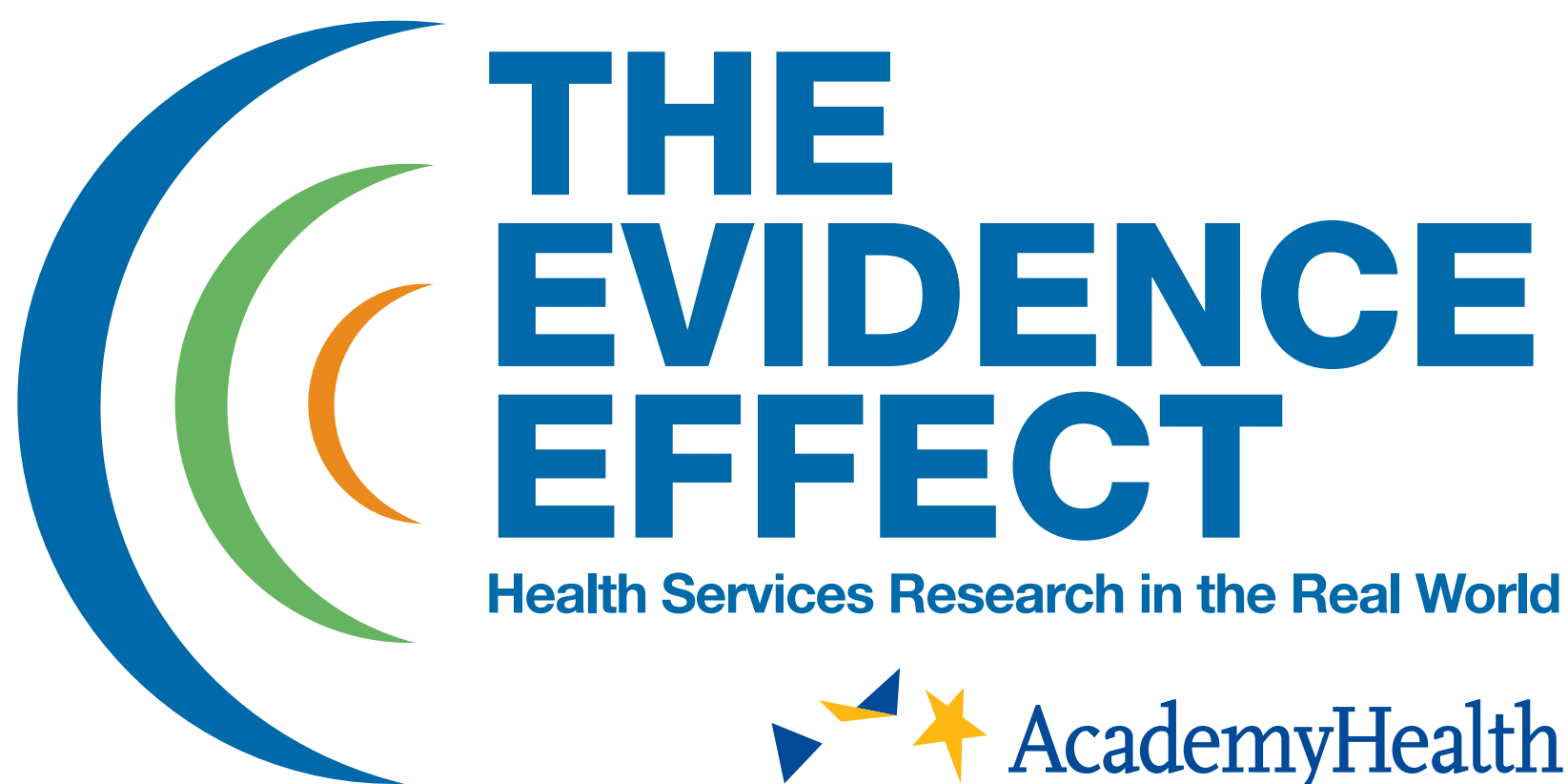


# THE PROBLEM

**Losing health coverage after birth puts the birthing parent at risk.**

In the U.S., Medicaid postpartum coverage often ends just weeks after delivery. But dangerous complications can arise even months later.





# WHY IT MATTERS

Most pregnancy-related deaths happen after birth.

**Nearly 60% of pregnancy-related deaths occur in the first year postpartum.**



# THE OPPORTUNITY

The COVID-19 pandemic created an **unexpected policy experiment.**

During the pandemic, federal policy required all states to keep Medicaid beneficiaries continuously enrolled for one year postpartum.

Researchers at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health used this moment to study **what happens when Medicaid postpartum coverage increases from 60 days to 12 months.**

# THE RESEARCH

**The research found that when coverage was extended to a full year after birth:**



20,000 more Medicaid patients in Texas used outpatient care during the first 6 months postpartum



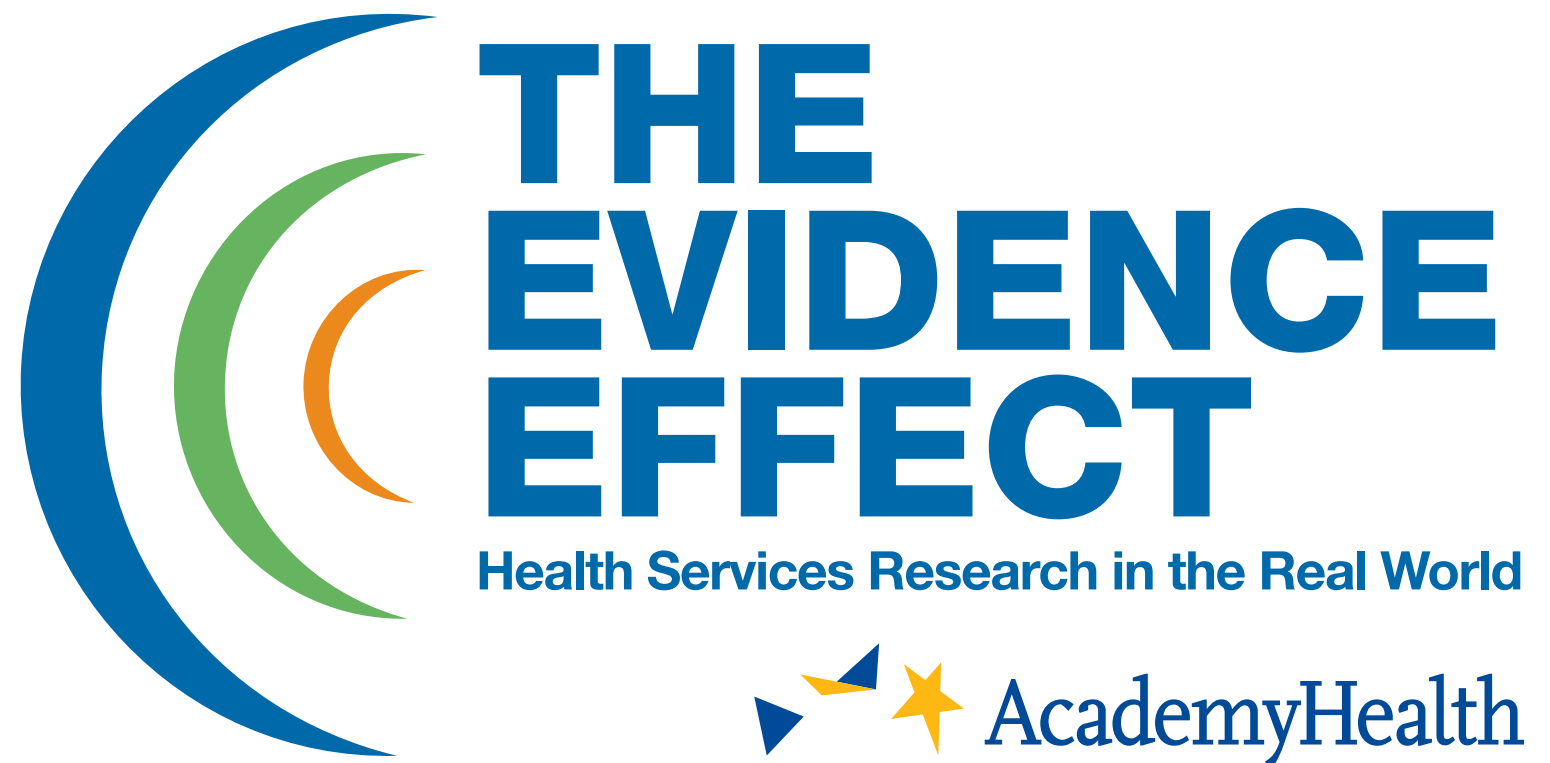
~100,000 people gained insurance nationally



Nearly 30% of previously uninsured Black women in non-expansion states gained insurance



Maternal quality of life improved



This study provides clear evidence that continuous postpartum Medicaid coverage improves access to care and quality of life during a critical period for maternal health.

**Research like this helps policymakers make informed decisions.**

# LEARN MORE

AcademyHealth supports researchers turning evidence into solutions. Through the Research in Transforming Health and Healthcare Systems (RTHS) program, **AcademyHealth has trained and supported more than 30 research teams to communicate their findings and inform real-world policy decisions.**

Learn more about this research and the Evidence Effect series at:

**[AcademyHealth.org/EvidenceEffect](https://AcademyHealth.org/EvidenceEffect)**

