

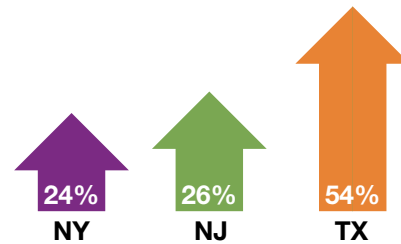
CONTINUOUS POSTPARTUM MEDICAID COVERAGE IMPROVES HEALTHCARE ACCESS, UTILIZATION, AND OVERALL WELLBEING

Many mothers lose Medicaid insurance within two months if their state does not provide continuous postpartum Medicaid coverage. Access to healthcare is vital because ~60% of pregnancy-related deaths happen in the first year after birth. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, states were required to keep people on Medicaid. We studied the impact of continuous Medicaid enrollment on postpartum women nationally and in 3 states with contrasting Medicaid policies.

1. Increased healthcare access

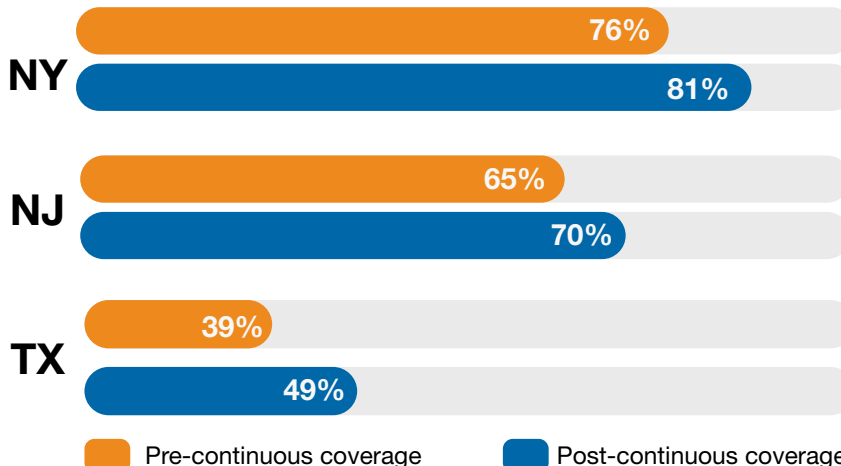
Continuous postpartum Medicaid increases coverage and reduces uninsurance, especially in non-expansion states.

For example, in NY, NJ, and TX, postpartum enrollment increased. Nationally, ~100k people gained insurance, and uninsurance decreased by 20%.



2. Increased crucial outpatient healthcare utilization

% of moms using outpatient care within 6-mos postpartum



This translates to more moms getting care:

+3,900
in NY

+1,500
in NJ

+20,000
in TX

3. Maternal quality of life increased

Postpartum Medicaid beneficiaries in NY, NJ, and TX reported that continuous coverage eases anxiety and provides mental security.

“...there's so many little loops... it's confusing to me and really stressful, but when you find out you have [coverage], it feels good.”

– TX patient



This brief is based on findings from the Postpartum Outcomes and Extension of Medicaid (POEM for Equity) Study and authored by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and SUNY Albany. For more information visit <https://poem-for-equity.squarespace.com>, or contact poemforequitystudy@gmail.com

If you would like to learn more about related work, please contact advocacy@academyhealth.org

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