



Fact Sheet

MEDICAID POSTPARTUM COVERAGE EXTENSION

May 2022

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BACKGROUND

Medicaid is the largest single payer of pregnancy-related services and covers over 42 percent of births nationally, and 33 percent of births in Wyoming.¹ Under current federal law, state Medicaid plans must provide continuous eligibility for pregnancy-related services to pregnant Medicaid beneficiaries for 60 days postpartum.² After the end of the 60 day period, the recipient's eligibility for continued Medicaid services is re-evaluated and may be lost due to a failure to meet Medicaid adult eligibility requirements.

The American Recovery and Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), enacted in March 2021, allows states the option of submitting a state plan amendment to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months for the five-year period April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2027.³ According to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance, the ARPA option provides states an opportunity to furnish care that can reduce pregnancy-related deaths and severe maternal morbidity and improve continuity of care for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, cardiac conditions, substance use disorder, and depression.⁴ CMS reports more than half of pregnancy-related deaths occur in the 12-month postpartum period.⁵

As of May 2022, 27 states have acted to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days to 12 months.⁶ Sixteen states⁷ have implemented extended coverage and 11 states⁸ have passed legislation to extend postpartum coverage. Similar legislation is pending in seven additional states.⁹ See **Figure 1**, below.

¹ CMS, Memo to State Health Officials, December 7, 2021; and average percent of Medicaid births in Wyoming, 2018-2020 as reported in [Wyoming Division of Healthcare Financing, Wyoming Medicaid Birth Report CY 2020](#).

² 42 CFR Section 435.170

³ ARPA Section 9812(a).

⁴ CMS, Memo to State Health Officials, December 7, 2021.

⁵ CMS, Memo to State Health Officials, December 7, 2021.

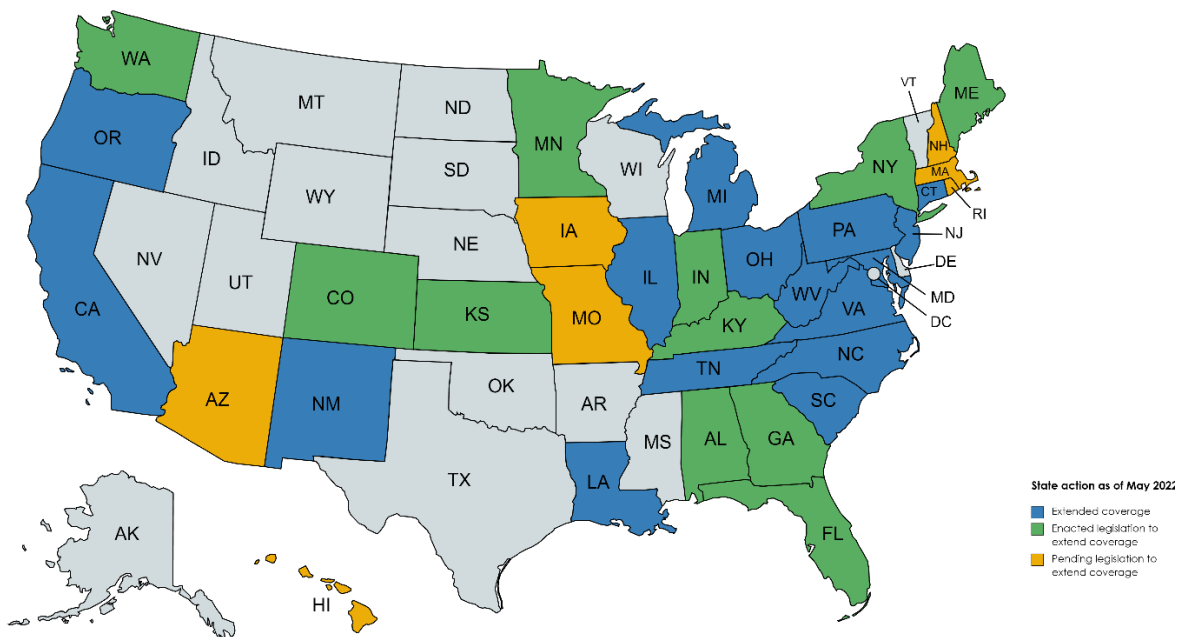
⁶ [NCSL, States Act on Postpartum Medicaid Coverage, March 29, 2022](#); [Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid Postpartum Coverage Extension Tracker, May 12, 2022](#); and [National Academy for State Health Policy, View Each State's Efforts to Extend Medicaid Postpartum Coverage, updated May 6, 2022](#).

⁷ California, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

⁸ Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Minnesota, New York, and Washington.

⁹ Arizona, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island.

Figure 1. State action to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage as of May 2022



Source: LSO compiled information from NCSL, Kaiser Family Foundation, and National Academy for State Health Policy

WYOMING MEDICAID: PREGNANT WOMEN COVERAGE AND POTENTIAL IMPACT OF POSTPARTUM EXTENSION¹⁰

Medicaid funded an average of 33% of statewide births in calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020. The percentage of Medicaid-funded births varied by county, ranging from 15 percent of births in Crook County to 49 percent of births in Fremont County in 2020. In addition to Fremont County, six counties (Big Horn, Campbell, Goshen, Hot Springs, Natrona, and Sweetwater) reported a percentage of Medicaid-funded births exceeding the State average. See **Appendix A** for Wyoming Medicaid Births by Calendar Year and CY 2020 Wyoming and Medicaid Births by County.

To qualify for Wyoming Medicaid Pregnant Women coverage, a woman must be pregnant, a U.S. citizen or lawfully present in the U.S., a Wyoming resident, and have family income at or below 154 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), or \$1653 per month for a family size of one.¹¹ In order to qualify for continued Medicaid coverage at the end of the 60 day postpartum

¹⁰ Information provided by Wyoming Department of Health, April 2022, WDH Medicaid Annual Report, SFY 2021, and **WDH, Medicaid Birth Report CY 2020**.

¹¹ Calendar year 2021 154% FPL from WDH, Medicaid Annual Report, SFY 2021.

period, a woman must qualify as a Family Care Adult by having family income at or below the 1996 Family Care income standard, or \$737 per month for a family size of two (mother plus infant).¹² See **Table 1** for 2021 Family Care Adult and Pregnant Women income eligibility limits.

Table 1. Wyoming Medicaid Income Limits, CY 2021

Eligibility Group	Income Limits based on Family Size			
	1	2	3	4
Family Care Adult (1996 Family Care income standard)	\$529	\$737	\$873	\$999
Pregnant Women (154% FPL)	\$1653	\$2236	\$2819	\$3401

Source: WDH, Wyoming Medicaid Annual Report, SFY 2021.

Since declaration of the national public health emergency due to COVID-19 in January 2020 and enactment of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) in March 2020, Wyoming and other states which accepted a temporary 6.2 percent increase in the Medicaid federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) have been prohibited from disenrolling anyone enrolled in Medicaid as of March 18, 2020, or who enrolls during the period of the public health emergency.¹³

The Wyoming Department of Health reports that prior to the public health emergency, Wyoming Medicaid Pregnant Women eligibility group month enrollment decreased from approximately 2000 members in 2016 to 1500 members in 2020. During the public health emergency disenrollment moratorium period, monthly Pregnant Women enrollment has increased to approximately 3500 members currently. Prior to the public health emergency, approximately 70 percent of Medicaid Pregnant Women lost Medicaid eligibility and were disenrolled at the end of the 60-day postpartum period.

Should Wyoming decide to extend Medicaid postpartum coverage under the ARPA option, the Department estimates 1250 Pregnant Women enrollees would benefit. This estimate is based on the assumption that the extension of postpartum coverage occurs after the public health emergency expires and Medicaid Pregnant Women enrollment reverts to pre-emergency levels. Based upon Wyoming’s current average postpartum per-member per-month cost of \$250, an extension of Medicaid postpartum coverage an additional 10 months (from 60 days to 12 months) would cost \$3.125 million: \$1.56 million (50%) in State general funds and \$1.56 million (50%) in federal funds.

Under a potential extension of Medicaid postpartum coverage, enrollees would receive the same full scope of Medicaid benefits received during their current prenatal and 60-day postpartum period, which is equivalent to the same scope of Medicaid benefits available to adults. Full scope Medicaid benefits include a range of behavioral health services, subject to Medicaid prior authorization requirements.

¹² WDH, Medicaid Annual Report, SFY 2021.

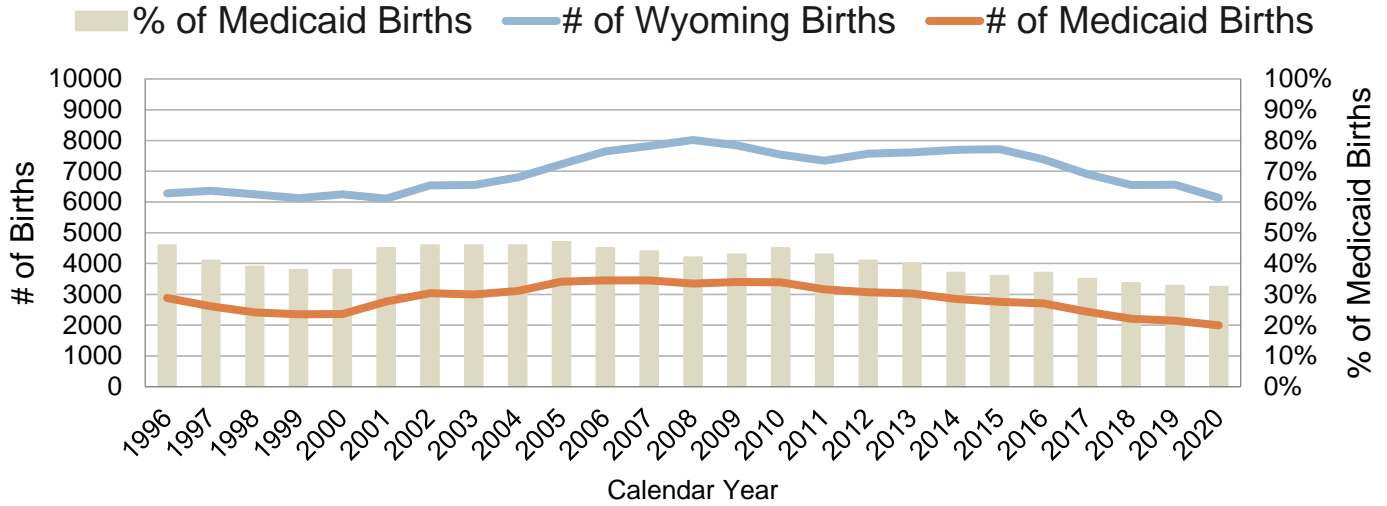
¹³ FFCRA Section 6008(b).



Wyoming Medicaid Birth Report CY 2020

Wyoming Medicaid Births by Calendar Year

and % of Wyoming Medicaid Births

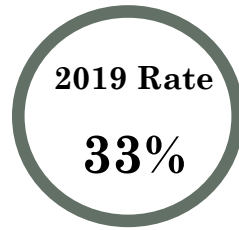


Calendar Year	# of Wyoming Births	# of Medicaid Births	% of Medicaid Births	Change from Previous Year
1996	6,286	2,880	46%	n/a
1997	6,361	2,606	41%	-5%
1998	6,248	2,412	39%	-2%
1999	6,122	2,352	38%	0%
2000	6,247	2,366	38%	-1%
2001	6,110	2,766	45%	7%
2002	6,545	3,037	46%	1%
2003	6,549	2,991	46%	-1%
2004	6,800	3,105	46%	0%
2005	7,231	3,410	47%	1%
2006	7,640	3,452	45%	-2%
2007	7,823	3,454	44%	-1%
2008	8,015	3,353	42%	-2%
2009	7,841	3,401	43%	2%
2010	7,541	3,395	45%	2%
2011	7,339	3,166	43%	-2%
2012	7,576	3,071	41%	-3%
2013	7,617	3,026	40%	-1%
2014	7,693	2,850	37%	-3%
2015	7,715	2,757	36%	-1%
2016	7,384	2,704	37%	1%
2017	6,904	2,439	35%	-1%
2018	6,549	2,206	34%	-1%
2019	6,566	2,148	33%	-1%
2020	6,133	1,993	32%	-1%



Wyoming and Medicaid Births by Recipient County

32%



of Wyoming births were covered by Medicaid in CY2020

5%



of Wyoming Medicaid birth mothers were under the age of 19 in CY2020

Recipient County	# of Births in Wyoming	# of Wyoming Medicaid Births	% of Medicaid Births	Change from Previous Year	# of Medicaid Births Under Age 19	% of Medicaid Births Under Age 19	Change from Previous Year
Albany	329	97	29%	-1%	3	3%	-1%
Big Horn	102	36	35%	3%	1	3%	3%
Campbell	597	216	36%	3%	8	4%	0%
Carbon	145	27	19%	-1%	2	7%	1%
Converse	152	47	31%	-2%	1	2%	0%
Crook	108	16	15%	1%	0	0%	0%
Fremont	428	210	49%	-3%	18	9%	3%
Goshen	125	46	37%	1%	3	7%	5%
Hot Springs	41	15	37%	3%	1	7%	7%
Johnson	75	19	25%	2%	0	0%	-5%
Laramie	1,114	334	30%	2%	21	6%	0%
Lincoln	216	35	16%	-6%	2	6%	0%
Natrona	902	347	38%	0%	21	6%	-1%
Niobrara	25	5	20%	1%	0	0%	-20%
Park	273	82	30%	-1%	2	2%	1%
Platte	77	14	18%	-11%	0	0%	0%
Sheridan	313	91	29%	-8%	4	4%	0%
Sublette	92	24	26%	-7%	1	4%	4%
Sweetwater	460	168	37%	4%	10	6%	-1%
Teton	206	44	21%	5%	1	2%	-1%
Uinta	217	70	32%	-1%	4	6%	0%
Washakie	79	20	25%	-18%	1	5%	5%
Weston	57	17	30%	3%	0	0%	-13%
Other	0	13	--	--	0	0%	0%
Total	6,133	1,993	32%	-1%	104	5%	0%