

# Extending Postpartum Medicaid/CHIP Coverage

## About 1,000 Days

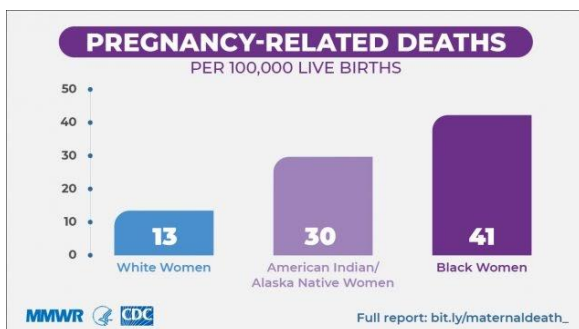
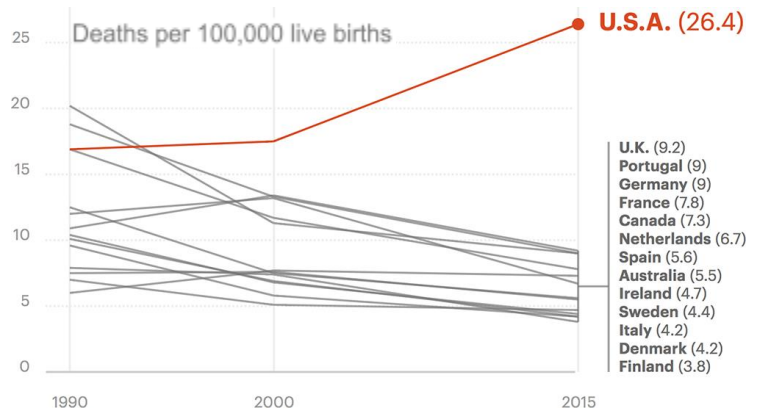
1,000 Days is the leading nonprofit organization working to ensure women and children in the U.S. and around the world have the healthiest first 1,000 days. As an initiative of FHI Solutions, our mission is to make the well-being of women and children in the first 1,000 days a policy and funding priority.

### The Issue

Having a baby is increasingly dangerous for women in America. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation with a rising maternal mortality rate, even though the majority of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable. Close to 1,000 women die each year from pregnancy-related causes, and more than 50,000 suffer from severe maternal morbidity – often considered a near miss for maternal mortality.

### Severe maternal morbidity and mortality disproportionately impact women of color, who are also more likely to be Medicaid recipients.

Black women and American Indian or Alaska Native women are 3 times and 2 times as likely, respectively, to die from pregnancy-related causes as white women, while rates of pregnancy-related deaths among Asian or Pacific Islander women and Hispanic or Latina women are similar to those among white women.



### Nearly half of all births in the U.S. are financed by Medicaid.

A 60-day postpartum coverage period was established in 1986; however, 50% or more of pregnancy-related deaths occur after 60 days. Many pregnancy-related deaths can be attributed to lack of access to or coverage for care or disruptions in continuity of care due to changes in coverage. Medicaid is critical in addressing racial disparities in maternal health, including access to care for postpartum complications and chronic conditions.

## Recommendation: Extend Medicaid/CHIP Coverage to 12 Months Postpartum

Bringing a child into this world shouldn't mean putting a woman's life at risk. To help ensure all women in the U.S. have a healthy first 1,000 days, women with a Medicaid-covered birth should receive postpartum coverage for 12 months, meeting the CDC definition of the postpartum period and the window during which babies born to Medicaid recipients are automatically eligible for coverage. **Extending Medicaid postpartum coverage to 12 months would facilitate continuity and coordination of care, improve health outcomes, and reduce overall Medicaid costs through early interventions.**