

Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies:

Extend Apple Health for Pregnant Women to One Year Postpartum

Apple Health for Pregnant Women Ends 60 Days After Birth, but Postpartum Health Needs Continue a Full Year

- Pregnancy-related deaths can occur up to a year after birth, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but an estimated annual 5,000 moms lose health coverage during the “fourth trimester.”
- *Our state’s Maternal Mortality Review Panel found 30% of all pregnancy-related maternal deaths and most suicides and accidental overdoses occur 43 to 365 days after delivery.*
- Complications requiring care arise well into the postpartum period after Apple Health coverage has lapsed; postpartum care may include therapy for depression, antibiotics for mastitis, and treatment for pelvic floor issues.



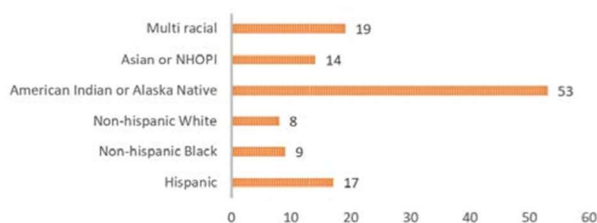
Continuity of Coverage and Care Keeps Birthing Parents and Their Babies Healthy During a Critical Time

- Washington’s Maternal Mortality Review Panel identified access to health care services and gaps in continuity of care as factors contributing to preventable pregnancy-related deaths. Their October 2019 report to the Legislature recommends ensuring funding and access to postpartum care and support through the first year after pregnancy.
- A baby’s first year is a critical period for later health and development. When moms have access to essential supports for their own physical and mental health, they can better provide nurturing, responsive care to their babies, enhancing their chances of success.

Significant Health Disparities in Maternal Mortality Ratios Require Attention

- Maternal mortality data reveal significant racial and ethnic disparities.
- *American Indian and Alaska Native women are six to seven times as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause as white women.*

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIOS IN WA STATE BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2014-2016



Federal Matching Funds May Become Available for States that Extend Postpartum Medicaid

- Proposed bipartisan federal legislation would provide matching funds to states that extend Medicaid to 365 days postpartum. Washington should immediately extend postpartum coverage with state dollars and be ready to take advantage of potential federal matching funds.

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Supporting Organizations:

Alliance for a Healthy Washington
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
ACLU of Washington
Children's Alliance
Community Health Plan of Washington
Community Health Network of Washington
Economic Opportunity Institute
Health Care is a Human Right Coalition
Health Coalition for Children & Youth
Jewish Federation
Legal Voice
Midwives Association of Washington State
MomsRising
NARAL Pro-Choice
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Nurse-Family Partnership
Open Arms Perinatal Services
Perigee Fund
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
Washington Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Washington League of Women Voters
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Washington State Medical Association
Washington State Public Health Association
WithinReach

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