

## Postpartum Medicaid Benefit Extension

Currently, Wyoming Medicaid expires 60 days after birth for new mothers. When women lose insurance, they are less likely to seek postnatal care. Untreated health conditions, substance use disorders, mental illnesses, and expensive emergency room visits delay mothers in returning to work. **Severe maternal morbidity could be avoided if women remain covered under Medicaid and have their conditions addressed before they worsen**<sup>8</sup>. Continuous Medicaid coverage could alleviate financial stress from medical bills as complications worsen without treatment. It could also mitigate economic losses from mothers not returning to work, missing work due to health conditions, or decreasing in overall productivity<sup>8</sup>. Many dangerous pregnancy-related conditions such as preeclampsia, blood clots, and heart problems may not appear until months after birth<sup>9</sup>. The United States, and Wyoming, has been plagued with a maternal health crisis. **Our state has the power to enact change to help women and babies**. With voiced support from the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, and more; the state should invest in the extension of the postpartum Medicaid benefit.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

About 1 in 3 pregnancy-related deaths occur in the postnatal stage (from one week to one year after birth).



Similarly, about 34% of pregnancy-related death is due to **heart disease and stroke**.<sup>10</sup>

### Policy/Study Recommendations

- **Enact 12 months of continuous postpartum Medicaid coverage using the State Plan Amendment under the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act.**

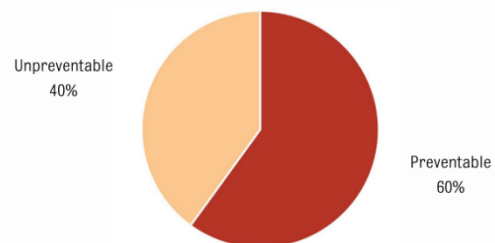
## WOMEN NEED POSTNATAL CARE FOR 12 MONTHS

The leading cause of pregnancy-related death differs after pregnancy; cardiomyopathy (weakened heart muscle) is the leading cause of death 1 week to 1 year after delivery.<sup>10</sup>

In a comprehensive study of pregnancy-related disorders and their resulting societal effects researchers recommended consistent postnatal check-ups for the entire first year after birth.<sup>8</sup>

The CDC also recommends high quality postpartum care for one year after the birth of a child.<sup>10</sup>

**60% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable, especially with consistent and quality postnatal care.**<sup>10</sup>



### Resources:

- 1: The [Wyoming Women's Foundation](#) website
- 2: [National Partnership for Women and Families: SUD Mom's and Babies](#)
- 3: [Association of Punitive and Reporting State Policies and Rates of NAS Research](#)
- 4: [SisterReach: Impact of Fetal Assault Law](#)
- 5: Georgetown Law Review: [State-Created Fetal Harm](#)

- 6: CDC National Vital Statistics System
- 7: ACOG: [Substance Abuse Reporting and Pregnancy](#)
- 8: [National Societal Costs of Untreated Postpartum Disorders](#)
- 9: ACOG: [Clinical Guidance on Optimizing Postpartum Care](#)
- 10: CDC [Pregnancy-Related Deaths](#)
- 11: [Adoption of Medicaid Expansion is Associated with Lower Maternal Mortality](#)