

TITLE: Postpartum Medicaid coverage and outpatient care utilization among low-income women in Oregon: Impacts of Medicaid expansion

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STUDENT SUBMISSION: Yes

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic: Postpartum Medicaid coverage and outpatient care utilization among low-income women in Oregon: Impacts of Medicaid expansion Target Audiences: Policy makers, program developers and evaluators, researchers and program managers

ABSTRACT: Study Aim: Medicaid expansion extended coverage to adults with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2014. We examined impacts of Medicaid expansion on duration of Medicaid coverage and utilization of outpatient care during the postpartum period by women in Oregon. Methods: Oregon birth certificates, Medicaid enrollment files and claims were linked to identify women (N=76,068) who gave birth between 2011-2015. We created one pre-Medicaid expansion (2011-2012) and two post-Medicaid expansion (2014-2015) groups (i.e., previously covered and newly covered by Medicaid). We used ordinary least squares and negative binomial regression models to examine changes in postpartum coverage duration and number of outpatient visits within a year of delivery for post-Medicaid expansion groups compared to the pre-Medicaid expansion group. Results: Postpartum coverage duration increased by three months for both post-Medicaid expansion groups ($p < 0.001$) compared to the pre-Medicaid expansion group. For those previously covered by Medicaid, outpatient utilization increased by 0.07, 0.46, and 0.33 visits/person during 0-2 months, 2-6 months, and 7-12 months postpartum, respectively. For new enrollees after Medicaid expansion, utilization increased by 0.11, 0.14, and 0.28 visits/person, respectively. Implications: Medicaid expansion increased postpartum coverage duration and outpatient care utilization, potentially reducing maternal morbidities and mortality.

OBJECTIVE(S): Examine the impact of Medicaid expansion on the duration of Medicaid enrollment among low-income women in Oregon during the postpartum period. Examine the impact of Medicaid expansion on utilization of outpatient care among low-income women in Oregon during the postpartum period. Discuss the implications of Medicaid expansion on maternal health.
