

# **How Insurance Commissioners can Improve Maternal Health Outcomes**

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Woman in a hospital gown, who appears to be Black, holds a newborn and kisses the baby on the nose.

# Agenda

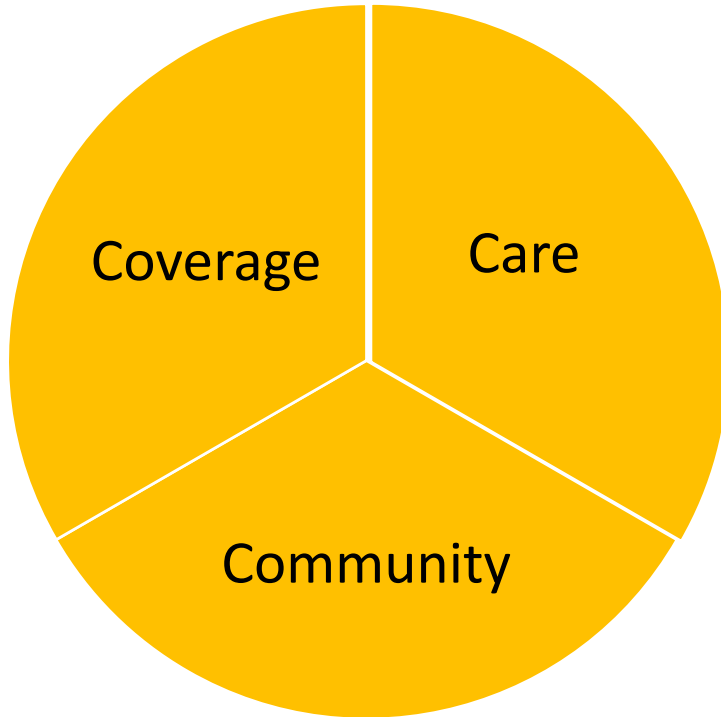
- Background
- Federal landscape
- Recommendation
- Resources

# Disparities in maternal and infant health



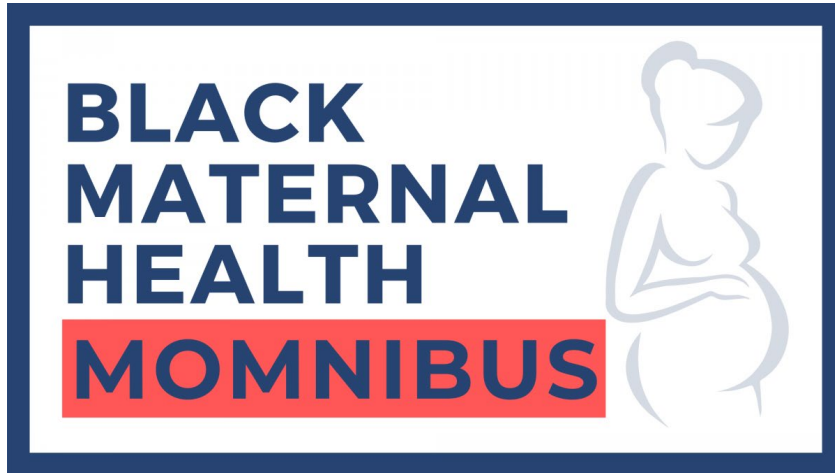
Woman, who appears to be Black, holds baby who rests his head on her shoulder and the baby's eyes look off screen.

# Disparities in Health Care



In the forefront of the picture, a woman, who appears to be Black with shoulder length dreadlocks, smiles down at a baby laying on a table. The woman has on a gray, short-sleeved dress, and she is holding a striped small hat. The baby has on blue. Two women, who appear white, sit in the background of the picture.

# Federal Landscape



12-month postpartum Medicaid  
extension

- Biden-Harris Administration
- CARES Act
- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
- American Families Plan

# Federal Administrative Action

- Approved 1115 Waivers
- President's Budget
- Rural Maternity and Obstetrics Management Strategies Program (RMOMS)
- Anticipated Network Adequacy Rule

BRIEFING ROOM

## A Proclamation on Black Maternal Health Week, 2021

APRIL 13, 2021 • PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS

# Recommendations

# Race and Data Collection

- Reduction in Churn
- Tracking of utilization and expenditures
- Translating coverage to quality care



A woman, who appears to be Black, holds a baby in her right arm and smiles while she feeds the baby a bottle with her left hand. The woman has curly hair and has on a tan sweater. The baby has on a white onesie.



# Network adequacy standards

- Ensure access to quality providers
- Coverage for midwives and doulas
  - Including certified professional midwives (CPMs) and certified midwives (CMs)
- Culturally competent care
  - Encourage implicit bias and anti-racism training



Two women sit closely with the woman on the left's arm around the other's shoulder. A baby sits on one woman's lap staring up at her while both ladies look down at the baby with smiles. Both ladies wear hijabs, one purple and the other light green, and the baby has on a pink romper with a cartoon character on it.

# EHB benchmark selection

- Robust prenatal and postnatal services
- Coverage for birth centers & home births
- Ensure meet ACA requirements
  - Maternity coverage for dependent enrollees
  - No cost sharing for women's preventive services
  - No arbitrary limits on services
  - Coverage of breastfeeding education and breast pumps



# Additional Resources

- **Building on the ACA: Administrative Actions to Improve Maternal Health:**  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2021/03/25/497536/building-aca-administrative-actions-improve-maternal-health/>
- **Community-Based Doulas and Midwives:**  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2020/04/14/483114/community-based-doulas-midwives/>
- **CAP Maternal and Infant Health resource page:**  
<https://www.americanprogress.org/tag/maternal-and-infant-health/>