



Medicaid Can Keep Idaho's Health Workforce—and Families—Strong

Every healthy baby needs a healthy mom, and healthy moms need a strong healthcare workforce. Medicaid is health insurance available to low-income children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and working adults in Idaho. The program is a critical lifeline for pregnant women and babies, ensuring access to vital care they might otherwise go without. It is also a key tool for retaining healthcare providers in rural areas. Medicaid supports healthier pregnancies, a stronger provider network, and a strong start for Idaho's children.



"My son would not be alive if we didn't have Medicaid."

The Daniels Family, Caldwell

When Amber Daniels was 20 weeks pregnant with her youngest of four children, the baby tried to come early—too early for survival. Fortunately, the Daniels family had Medicaid, which allowed Amber to get the medical care she needed to keep the baby in utero until he reached a viable gestational age of 32 weeks. Although their son, Aleister, had to spend the first month of his life in the NICU, Amber and her husband, Darrell, are grateful that he is here today.

Amber remembers when she did not have Medicaid and had to go without insurance because she couldn't afford it. She remembers making tough choices: getting her healthcare needs met or feeding the family. She always chose to feed her family. Now that Amber has Medicaid, she can take care of her health and be there for her kids.

Idahoans Want Healthcare Solutions

Idahoans across party lines understand the value of Medicaid and having access to healthcare:



77% support having Medicaid cover more maternal care services.¹



91% want lawmakers to address healthcare workforce shortages.²



80% understand that Medicaid is necessary and do not support cuts that would reduce access to healthcare services.¹

¹ Statewide poll of Idaho Voters. July 2023. www.idahovoices.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Medicaid-Polling_OnePager.pdf.

² 2024 Poll of Idaho Adults, Ages 18+, Altarum Healthcare Value Hub's Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey.

Outlook for Idaho's Moms and Babies

A growing shortage of healthcare providers and accessible maternity care services is putting the health of Idaho moms and babies at risk—especially in rural communities where medical care is harder to access.

Fewer health providers:

- Between 2022 and 2023, Idaho **lost nearly 22% of its OB-GYN providers**, reducing access to maternity care for more than 962,000 women.³
- Idaho has the **lowest ratio of pediatricians** (46.9) per 100,000 children (ages 0-21) in the nation.⁴

Gaps in maternity care:

- **Nearly 20%** of Idaho women have no birthing hospital within 30 minutes.⁵
- **Approximately 30%** of Idaho counties are maternity care deserts.^{5,6}
- **1 in 5** Idaho mothers did not receive any prenatal care during their first trimester.⁷

Protecting Medicaid from budget cuts means:

- Retaining healthcare providers in rural areas.
- Better health outcomes for expectant moms through comprehensive health services from prenatal through birth and developmental screenings for their newborns.
- Financial protection for families from the high costs of pregnancy and childbirth. In 2023, Medicaid covered 30% of births in Idaho.⁸

Idaho moms and babies struggle to access healthcare across the state. We should do all we can to support services like Medicaid, which help Idahoans start and grow their families. People in Idaho want real healthcare solutions rather than cuts to the essential services they rely on.

For more information, please contact:

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Idaho Kids Covered is a statewide network of healthcare advocates and stakeholders working to support affordable access to health coverage and care for all children in Idaho. Idaho Kids Covered is a project of Idaho Voices for Children. For more information visit idahokidscovered.org.

³ A Post Roe Idaho. February 2024. https://issuu.com/idahocsh/docs/final_post_roe_idaho_data_report_feb_2024.

⁴ America's Health Rankings analysis of U.S. HHS, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, National Plan and Provider Enumeration System, United Health Foundation. <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/PED/ID>.

⁵ March of Dimes, Maternity Care Report Idaho. 2023. <https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/assets/s3/reports/mcd/Maternity-Care-Report-Idaho.pdf>.

⁶ Maternity care desert is defined as counties with: zero hospitals and birth centers offering obstetric care and zero obstetric providers (obstetrician, family physician, CNM/CM per 10,000 births).

⁷ IDHW, DPH, Idaho Births (Vital Statistics), 'Trimester of First PNC Visit', (2023).

⁸ IDHW, DPH, Idaho Births (Vital Statistics), 'Payment of Delivery by Mother's Resident District and County' (2023).