



Kentucky can...

## Ensure Children and Families Continue to Access the Healthcare They Need

Kentucky's outreach and enrollment efforts for the Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP) and Medicaid have resulted in **96% of children having health coverage**, and these programs have been key in keeping children covered during the COVID-19 pandemic as many parents lost employer-sponsored coverage.

- KCHIP and Medicaid ensure children in low-income families can access health coverage that allows them to visit healthcare providers or utilize telehealth services to address physical, behavioral, oral, and vision health needs. While efforts to connect children and parents to health insurance and improve telehealth utilization have narrowed disparities in coverage and accessing care for most populations, **gaps remain for Latinx children.**

**Kentucky can boost outreach and enrollment efforts with the Latinx population that is culturally relevant, with trusted messengers, and with appropriate interpretation services.**

- **Parents' health and access to health insurance coverage, especially for mothers, affects the health and well-being of their children.** Postpartum is a vulnerable time for new mothers and their baby, and this is especially true for women on Medicaid, many of whom are at risk of losing their health insurance coverage just 60 days after the end of pregnancy. Despite the increased risk of postpartum death and illness, **up to half of women do not receive routine care after birth**, regardless of whether they experienced complications during pregnancy or not.

**The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provided states the flexibility to expand Medicaid postpartum coverage up to 12 months effective April 2022. Kentucky can take the critical first step of submitting a state Medicaid plan amendment and allocate Medicaid funding to ensure new moms have continuous, uninterrupted access to care to address their ongoing health needs up to 12 months postpartum.**

### What does the data tell us?

- Half of maternal deaths are post-pregnancy, and over 3 out of 4 are preventable.
- In Kentucky, the rate of Black mothers dying within one year of giving birth is more than twice the rate for White mothers.
- Child health coverage rates by race/ethnicity:
  - 97% of Black children
  - 96% of White children
  - 91% of Latinx children

### Advancing equity in the Commonwealth

Black and Latinx communities have been impacted especially hard by COVID-19 due to pre-existing disparities that result from a variety of historic and present-day factors, ranging from unequal access to health coverage and care, to being more likely to live in areas with less healthy food, along with education and employment barriers that have concentrated Black and Brown people in lower wage jobs. Kentucky must ensure an equitable, healthy pandemic recovery for these Kentuckians.

### Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Ensure investments in Medicaid and KCHIP prioritize closing the remaining gap in health coverage for Latinx children and increase Medicaid funding to support health coverage for mothers up to 12 months postpartum.