



# Postpartum Coverage in Virginia

## Background

Virginia was the fourth state to extend the protected coverage period for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid and FAMIS MOMS. A section 1115 waiver authorized DMAS to extend coverage from 60 days to 12 months postpartum beginning July 1, 2022. Extending coverage ensures women have access to necessary services for maternal well-being.

VCU School of Population Health is conducting an independent evaluation of this waiver for the Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS). This effort is led by a multi-disciplinary research team in the Department of Health Policy.

**Objective: Understand changes in the duration of postpartum Medicaid coverage resulting from:**

- 12-Months Postpartum Coverage Extension
- COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Maintenance of Eligibility
- Medicaid Expansion



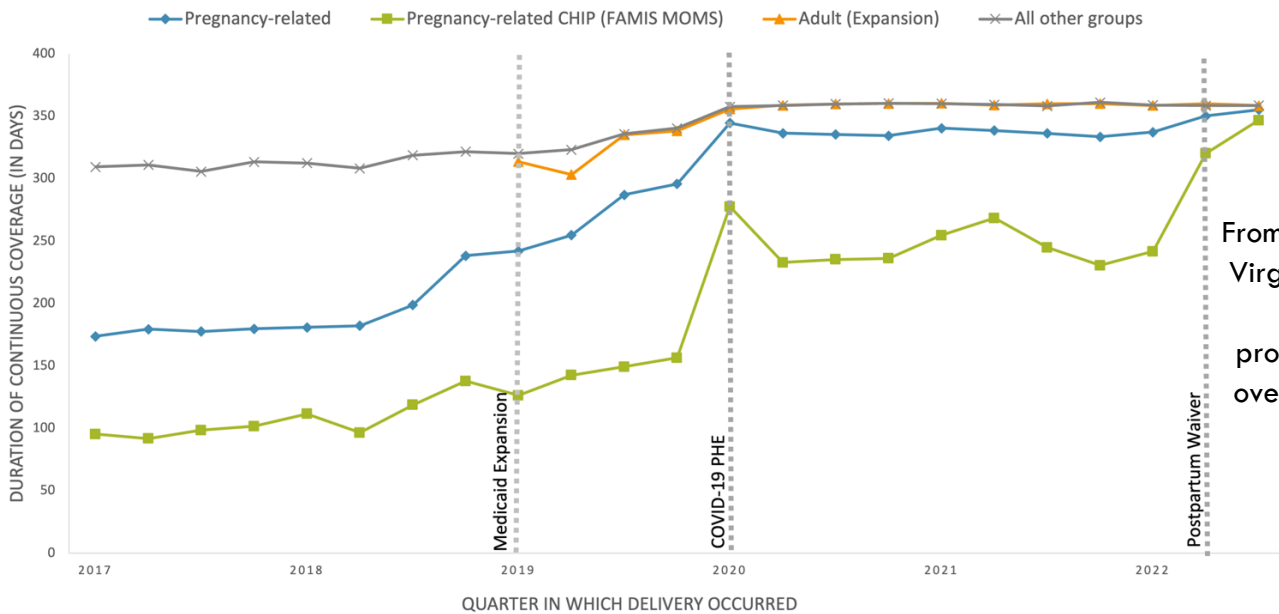
## Data Sources & Methods

DMAS enrollment & claims data

Live births were identified in DMAS claims data from 2017 to 2022 and the length of continuous coverage in any Medicaid eligibility category (e.g., expansion, pregnancy) was calculated.

## Findings

DAYS OF CONTINUOUS COVERAGE AFTER DELIVERY IN THE YEAR POSTPARTUM BY ELIGIBILITY CATEGORY AT THE TIME OF DELIVERY



From 2017 to 2022, Virginia's Medicaid and FAMIS programs covered over 30,000 births annually.

## Conclusion

**Policies increasing coverage access, like Virginia's postpartum coverage extension, substantially improve the duration of continuous Medicaid coverage after giving birth.**