



BIG VOICES for Little Kids

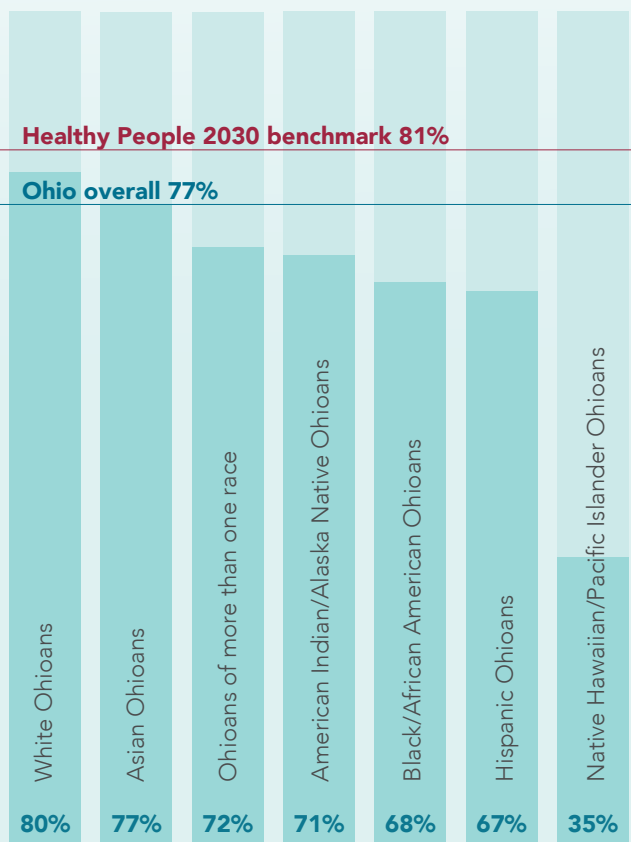


Improve Medicaid Coverage & Quality for Mothers & Babies

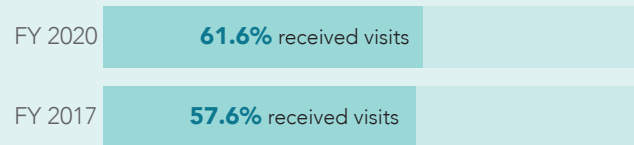
Medicaid is a crucial support for Ohio mothers and babies, covering more than half of the births in our state and playing a critical role in maternal care and infant health outcomes. However, there are concrete steps that state policymakers can take to improve the Medicaid program to provide greater access to and quality of care for mothers and babies.

What does the data tell us?¹

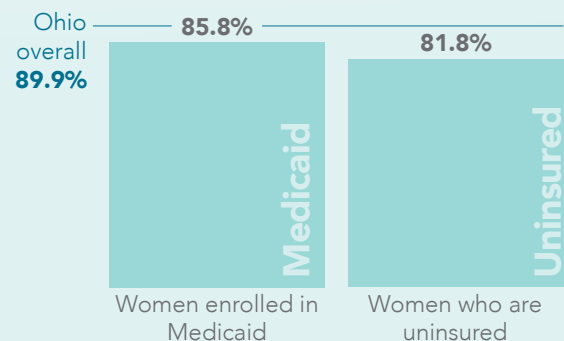
Pregnant women aren't receiving care early in their pregnancy: Healthy moms are the foundation of healthy children. Yet only three-quarters of pregnant women in Ohio received prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy in 2020. Pregnant women of color were even more likely to experience delays in care.



Children are missing critical well-visits: Fewer than 62% of Ohio children enrolled in Medicaid-managed care plans received the recommended six or more well-child visits in the first 15 months of life in 2020. Unfortunately, there has been little improvement in Ohio's performance on achieving the recommended number of well-child visits since 2017.



Women are not receiving adequate postpartum care: For women who are enrolled on Medicaid, there is a gap in receiving important postpartum care. In 2020, women who were enrolled on Medicaid or uninsured were less likely to have a medical appointment after giving birth compared to other Ohio women.





“My family’s biggest issue is health. Although we have Medicaid, it’s almost like we are either looked down on or over. People think we are lesser because we have it, or they just flat out won’t see us.”

– Groundwork Ohio Family Action Network Parent

To improve Medicaid coverage and quality for mothers and babies, policymakers should



Increase access for young children by implementing **multi-year continuous Medicaid coverage** for Ohio children ages 0-3 and leverage federal and state investment to expand Medicaid eligibility for children to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level.



Implement policies to **increase well visits** among Medicaid-eligible young children.



Provide a pathway for Medicaid reimbursement of **doulas**.



Provide **children adopted through private agencies with Medicaid coverage**, especially those with complex medical conditions.



Improve **care coordination** for babies with complex needs including creating access to new and enhanced evidence-based mental health services for babies and their caregivers.

Sources

1. [Groundwork Ohio’s Early Childhood Dashboard \(2023\)](#)