

Does Medicaid managed care impact obstetrical care and birth outcomes?

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A new study shows that among a set of disadvantaged women, Medicaid managed care reduces the women's access to high-quality hospital services during pregnancy and delivery and was associated with worse birth outcomes, worse prenatal care, and a higher risk of inappropriate gestational weight gain. The specific results and their implications are reported in a study published in *Journal of Women's Health*.

Ji Yan, Ph.D., Appalachian State University, Boone, NC, was the author of the article entitled "[The Impact of Medicaid Managed Care on Obstetrical Care and Birth Outcomes: A Case Study.](#)" Dr. Yan based his findings on a dataset of disadvantaged [women](#) who had singleton births over a 10-year period, resulting in more than 78,300 mother-infant observations. The Medicaid managed care program under which these women received health care achieved [cost savings](#) by reducing the use of some high-tech obstetrical services and limiting access to high-quality hospital services. There was a price to pay, however, in maternal [health care](#) utilization and infant well-being.

Susan G. Kornstein, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Journal of Women's Health* and Executive Director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Women's Health, Richmond, VA, states: "This study emphasizes the need to be cautious in designing and implementing lower cost managed care programs for low-income obstetrical patients, as it demonstrates the possible negative outcomes for both mothers and their infants."

More information: Ji Yan, The Impact of Medicaid Managed Care on Obstetrical Care and Birth Outcomes: A Case Study, *Journal of Women's Health* (2019). [DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2019.7792](https://doi.org/10.1089/jwh.2019.7792)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

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