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Impacts of Medicaid Expansion on Health Among Women of Reproductive Age

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Abstract

Introduction: Preconception and interconception health care are critical means of identifying, managing, and treating risk factors originating prior to pregnancy that can harm fetal development and maternal health. However, many women in the U.S. lack health insurance, limiting their ability to access such care. State-level variation in Medicaid eligibility, particularly before and after the 2014 Medicaid expansions, offers a unique opportunity to test the hypothesis that increasing healthcare coverage for low-income women can improve preconception and interconception healthcare access and utilization, chronic disease management, overall health, and health behaviors.

Methods: In 2018–2019, data on 58,365 low-income women aged 18–44 years from the 2011–2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System were analyzed and a difference-in-difference analysis was used to examine the impact of Medicaid expansions on preconception health.

Results: Expanded Medicaid eligibility was associated with increased healthcare coverage and utilization, better self-rated health, and decreases in avoidance of care because of cost, heavy drinking, and binge drinking. Medicaid eligibility did not impact diagnoses of chronic conditions, smoking cessation, or BMI. Medicaid eligibility was associated with greater gains in health insurance, utilization, and health among married (versus unmarried) women. Conversely, women with any (versus no) dependent children experienced smaller gains in insurance following the Medicaid expansion, but greater take-up of insurance when eligibility increased and larger behavioral responses to gaining insurance.

Conclusions: Expanded Medicaid coverage may improve access to and utilization of health care among women of reproductive age, which could ultimately improve preconception health.

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INTRODUCTION

The U.S. ranks above other developed nations in rates of preterm delivery and low birth weight,^{1,2} as well as maternal morbidity and mortality.³ These rates have changed little over time,^{4,5} despite national efforts aimed at increasing access to prenatal care,⁶ including expansion of Medicaid—the public health insurance program for low-income families⁷—in the 1980s and 1990s to cover low-income women during pregnancy.^{8,9}

Increasingly, it is recognized that health care only during the prenatal period is inadequate to address risks such as smoking, alcohol use, obesity, and chronic disease that adversely affect fetal development and maternal health, but originate prior to pregnancy and cannot be remediated fully during pregnancy.^{6,10–12} Treatments for these risks during pregnancy (e.g., pharmacotherapy or nicotine replacement, anti-hypertensive medication, and weight loss) can create new risks to fetal development or may simply come too late to prevent adverse effects.^{11,13,14} Thus, preconception and interconception (hereafter, referred to as "preconception" for brevity) preventive care have been heralded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,¹⁵ American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (2005),¹⁶ and March of Dimes (2002)¹² as promising methods of improving outcomes for both mother and infant.^{6,10}

An important barrier to preconception health is inadequate access to health insurance.¹⁷ As of 2012, about one fifth of all women of reproductive age¹⁸ and more than one third of lowincome women of reproductive age (Appendix Table 1) were without health insurance, limiting access to health care (Appendix Table 2). Expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) allowed states to expand coverage to all non-elderly Americans with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, theoretically increasing preconception insurance coverage for low-income women who would previously not have become Medicaid eligible until pregnancy.¹⁹ Moreover, the ACA requires Medicaid cover preventive care without cost sharing.²⁰ Indeed, the 2014 expansion increased insurance coverage and access to care in general,^{21–23} among women of reproductive age in particular,^{24,25} and prior to conception.^{26,27} It remains unknown, however, whether these gains in coverage translated to improved health in domains known to be associated with pregnancy health, such as preventive care, chronic disease, and health behaviors. This study fills this gap by providing some of the first data at the national level examining the impact of expanded Medicaid eligibility (both prior to and after the ACA) on measures of preventive health care and behaviors among low-income women of reproductive age.

METHODS

Study Sample

Data came from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS),²⁸ administered annually in all 50 states and the District of Columbia (DC) to non-institutionalized U.S. residents aged 18 years. The sample included 2011–2013 (pre-expansion) and 2015–2016 (post-expansion) data on women of reproductive age (18–44 years, N=357,336), with low household income (<138% federal poverty level, n=86,950), who were not pregnant at the time of interview (n=82,092) (Figure 1). Data from 2014 were excluded because women

reporting during 2014 would have had less than a full year exposure to Medicaid expansion, and because questions about use of care referred to previous periods of time, for example, *over the past year* or *in the past 3 months*. Because this research used de-identified data, it was deemed not human subjects research by Michigan State University's IRB.

A quasi-experimental, difference-in-differences (DID) study design was used to compare the change from pre- to post-Medicaid expansion in prevalence of self-reported outcomes between low-income women of reproductive age living in states that expanded Medicaid by January 1, 2014 (expansion states) and similar women in states that did not expand Medicaid (control states). As a second, complementary approach, treatment was measured using a simulated measure of Medicaid eligibility across the study period, as eligibility for Medicaid varied widely across states and over time.²⁹

Measures

Expansion states included those that expanded Medicaid by January 1, 2014.³⁰ The primary analysis excluded five states that expanded Medicaid between January 2014 and the end of 2015 as well seven states that had partial Medicaid expansions prior to 2014 (excluded n=22,542) and women with missing data on covariates (excluded n=1,185) for an analytic sample of 58,365 women in 38 states plus DC. Appendix Table 3 shows expansion/control status of states.

The simulated eligibility measure used a sample of women of reproductive age (18–44 years) drawn from the 2010–2012 American Community Survey (prior to the ACA Medicaid expansion) to create demographic subgroups defined by the combination of: state of residence, race/ethnicity (non-Hispanic white, non-Hispanic black, Hispanic, other race), age (18–24, 25–34, 35–44 years), marital status (married, unmarried), dependent children (yes/no), and educational attainment (less than high school, high school, some college, college graduate). Each woman's household income and composition in the 2010–2012 data were used to calculate her eligibility for Medicaid in each year from 2010 to 2016 using Medicaid eligibility regulations for that year in her state. Next, mean eligibility within each demographic subgroup was used to calculate a simulated probability that a woman in a given subgroup would be eligible for Medicaid in a given year from 2010 to 2016. These simulated probabilities were merged onto the BRFSS data by demographic subgroup and year.

This approach takes advantage of variation in Medicaid eligibility by state and time, not limited to the 2014 expansion. Importantly, variation in simulated eligibility derives only from policy changes and does not suffer from the limitation that women's earnings/income could change if they enroll in Medicaid. This measure also incorporates differences in baseline eligibility of both treatment and control states. This approach is common and widely accepted as valid.^{31,32} This approach yields a larger sample size (282,869) because it is not limited by state of residence or women's household income. To compare results from this approach with those from the DID analysis, the simulated eligibility analysis was first conducted only among women in the 38 expansion and control states plus Washington, DC (n=212,836).

Outcomes included current health insurance (yes/no), healthcare access (avoiding care because of cost in the past year); preventive health care (checkup in past year, ever had blood cholesterol checked, and had cholesterol checked within previous year), overall health (self-rated health, physical and mental health distress [defined as 14 days not in good physical/ mental health in the past month]); chronic disease (participant ever told that she has high blood pressure, high cholesterol, prediabetes, or diabetes; currently taking blood pressure medication [among those with high blood pressure]; currently taking insulin [among those with a diabetes diagnosis]), and health behaviors (smoking-cessation attempt in past year [among current smokers], current normal/underweight BMI [versus overweight/obese], and binge and heavy drinking in the past month). These measures were selected based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended domains for monitoring and improving preconception health.³³ Observations missing data on outcomes were excluded from analyses of those outcomes only; no outcome was missing >7% of observations (Appendix Tables 5). A full description of variables, denominators, and missing values is available in Appendix Tables 4 and 5.

Statistical Analysis

Descriptive analyses included the unadjusted proportion (%) for all outcomes for the 58,365 women in the DID analysis, overall and by expansion/control state and pre-/post-expansion period. The parallel trends assumption for the DID analysis was assessed both graphically and empirically (Appendix Figure and Appendix Table 6).

The main analysis included a series of multivariable, linear probability DID models with robust SEs clustered by state using data from both the pre- and post-expansion periods. The DID model is as follows:

$$Y_{ist} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (Expansion_s \times Post) + Year'_t \beta_2 + State'_s \beta_3 + X'_{ist} \beta_4 + \beta_5 Z_{st} + \varepsilon_{ist}$$

where Y_{ist} represents the outcome of interest for woman *i* in state *s* and year *t*. Expansion is a 0/1 indicator of whether the woman lives in an expansion or control state; *post*, a 0/1 indicator for whether the outcome is measured pre- or post-expansion; **Year**₁ and **State**_s are vectors of year and state fixed effects that account for changes in the outcome over time and state-level contextual differences, respectively; X_{ist} is a vector of individual covariates (age group, race/ethnicity, household income, educational attainment, employment status, marital status, household size, and whether or not the woman has dependent children in the household); and Z_{st} is the quarterly average state unemployment rate. The parameter of interest (i.e., the DID estimator) is β_1 . The authors first estimated models with only year and state fixed effects ("minimally adjusted models," and then added individual covariates and the state unemployment rate ("adjusted models").

The second approach uses the simulated eligibility variable as a continuous measure of treatment in the regression model. For this analysis, all women of reproductive age are used (not limited by income). The model is as follows:

$$Y_{igst} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \left(simluated_eligibility_{gst} \right) + State'_s x Group'_g \beta_2 + Year'_t x Group'_g \beta_3 + \varepsilon_{ist}$$

where Y_{igst} represents the outcome of interest for woman *i* in group *g* and state *s* in year *t*. *Simluated_eligibility* is her probability of being eligible for Medicaid based on her demographic characteristics (*g*) and the income eligibility rules of her state of residence (*s*) in the year (*t*) of survey (computed based on the American Community Survey data, as described in the Measures section), and *State'* _s x *Group'* _g β_2 and *Year'*_t x *Group'* _g β_3 are interactions between vectors of state and demographic subgroup and state and year fixed effects. The parameter of interest, β_1 , represents the change in Y_{igst} when all women in the demographic group are eligible for Medicaid versus when no women are eligible.

The impact of the Medicaid expansion was hypothesized to be greater among women without dependent children (versus those with dependent children, who may have previously qualified for Medicaid under more generous parental eligibility levels), unmarried (versus married) women, and women aged 26 years who would not have benefitted from the dependent coverage provision of the ACA. A Holm–Bonferroni correction was applied to account for multiple hypothesis testing.

Secondary analyses included the simulated eligibility analysis using women in all 50 states and DC instead of only the 38 expansion/control states, and the DID analysis using different definitions of expansion and control states (Appendix Table 3). Although unweighted data were used in the main analyses (as this analysis used only a sample, not the entire BRFSS data set), secondary analyses included the BRFSS weights for comparison.

RESULTS

Medicaid expansion was associated with a minimally adjusted increase in healthcare coverage (9.7 percentage points), report of a checkup in the past year (3.7 percentage points), taking blood pressure medication (6.8 percentage points), and taking insulin (4.9 percentage points), and with a 7.4 percentage point decrease in avoiding seeking care because of cost (Table 1). The parallel trend assumption was met for 15 of 20 outcomes, with the exceptions being having a checkup in the past year, having cholesterol checked in the past year, self-rated health, physical distress, and body weight (Appendix Figure and Appendix Table 6).

After adjustment for individual covariates (age group, race/ethnicity, household income, educational attainment, employment status, marital status, household size, and whether or not the woman has dependent children in the household), 2014 Medicaid expansion was associated with a 9.0 (95% CI=2.9, 15.2) percentage point increase in healthcare coverage and a 7.4 (95% CI=-12.2, -2.6) percentage point decrease in avoiding care because of cost (Table 1, last column and Table 2, first column). The expansion was associated with percentage point increases of 7.9 (95% CI=3.1, 12.8) in taking blood pressure medication and 11.4 (95% CI=3.0, 19.7) in taking insulin. The expansion was associated with a 1.0 (95% CI=-1.8, -0.2) percentage point decrease in heavy drinking. Associations were larger among married women and those with no dependent children compared with unmarried

women and those with dependent children (Table 2). Results were similar across age groups (Amendia Table 7) with increases in taking mediantion for abronic conditions seen

(Appendix Table 7), with increases in taking medication for chronic conditions seen primarily in older women. After applying the Holm–Bonferroni correction, fewer findings were statistically significant (only blood pressure medication and checkups among all women and insurance, avoiding care, and cholesterol check among women with no dependent children) (Table 2, footnote d).

Simulated eligibility estimates indicated that increasing Medicaid eligibility to all women of reproductive age would be associated with percentage point increases of 15.9 (95% CI=8.0, 23.7) in health insurance coverage, 7.4 (95% CI=0.7, 14.2) in having a checkup in the past year, 8.8 (95% CI=1.4, 16.2) in having had a cholesterol check within a year, and 2.3 (95% CI=0.5, 4.2) in reporting good self-rated health, and percentage point decreases of 9.9 (95% CI=-17.2, -2.5) in avoiding care because of cost and 3.3 (95% CI=-6.5, -0.1) in binge drinking (Table 3). In general, eligibility was associated more strongly with outcomes among married women and those with dependent children. Among married women only, eligibility was associated with increases in taking insulin; among women with dependent children only, eligibility was associated with declines in physical health distress and heavy drinking (Table 3).

Estimates from analyses using different definitions of expansion and control states slightly attenuated results compared with the estimates in Table 2 (Appendix Tables 8 and 9). Applying BRFSS weights also yielded similar, slightly attenuated, findings (Appendix Table 10).

DISCUSSION

These findings showed that expanded Medicaid eligibility for low-income women of reproductive age was associated with increased healthcare coverage and utilization, better self-rated health, decreased avoidance of care because of cost, and decreased heavy and binge drinking but did not impact diagnoses of chronic disease, smoking cessation, or BMI. Married women experienced greater gains in health insurance, utilization, and health compared with unmarried women, and women with dependent children experienced smaller gains in insurance but larger behavioral responses to gaining insurance.

This study makes an important and unique contribution by using national data to examine impacts of Medicaid eligibility—both prior to and because of the 2014 ACA expansion—on preventive health care and health among women of reproductive age. Previous research has demonstrated that the 2014 Medicaid expansion increased insurance coverage and access to care among women overall (aged 19–64 years),^{34,35} women of reproductive age (19–44 years),²⁵ and prior to pregnancy.²⁶ Although one early study found that Medicaid expansion did not improve preventive health care or health behaviors by 2015 among women aged 19–64 years,³⁴ a recent study found increases in blood pressure and cholesterol screening and mammograms among women aged 19–64 years in 2014–2017 compared with 2010–2013.³⁵ These results, which focus exclusively on women of reproductive age (18–44 years), show improvements in several (although not all) indicators of preventive care, chronic disease management, and drinking. Indeed, the perinatal period of a woman's life may be a window

of opportunity during which women more likely adopt healthier behaviors and heed medical advice. $^{36-38}$

Another contribution of this study is the simulated eligibility measure. By using a continuous measure of eligibility over the entire study period, this study accounts for the fact that some women may have been eligible for Medicaid prior to the expansion or in non-expansion states (e.g., because of income or dependent children). These analyses demonstrated that some outcomes (e.g., cholesterol check and binge drinking) were not impacted, on average, by the 2014 expansion but did respond positively to overall increases in Medicaid eligibility, highlighting the value of simulated eligibility. When treatment is measured by a dichotomous yes/no indicator of expansion, variation in the extent of treatment across states is ignored. The simulated eligibility measure provides a measure of the extent of treatment, which differed across states. This more accurate measure provides greater statistical power and incorporates a dose (i.e., expanded coverage) response relationship that is expected.

Prior expansions of Medicaid in the 1980s were designed to increase enrollment in prenatal care by increasing Medicaid eligibility during pregnancy, and demonstration waiver programs in the 1990s began extending Medicaid eligibility to cover family planning services (a form of preconception health care).⁴⁰ Yet, these expansions were not associated with improvements in birth outcomes.^{8,9} Recently, Brown and colleagues⁴⁰ reported that the 2014 Medicaid expansion did in fact improve black/white disparities in low birth weight and preterm birth, suggesting that expanding health insurance coverage for women prior to conception—which can enable them to access preconception care and thus improve preconception health—offers promise in terms of improving subsequent pregnancy outcomes. These findings indicate support for this process: Low-income women of reproductive age did utilize preventive care and experience some improvements in health following state Medicaid expansions.

Limitations

This study was limited by the relatively short follow-up period and data available in BRFSS. ²⁸ Several outcomes are conditional on a diagnosis (e.g., taking blood pressure medication). Thus, a change in the proportion taking medication could reflect either a change in the number of women with high blood pressure or a true behavioral change. These data, however, do not reflect changes in diagnoses associated with Medicaid. Medicaid expansion was not associated with smoking-cessation attempts or BMI, suggesting that these domains of preconception health may not be sensitive to healthcare use, at least over a period of 2 years. Moreover, this study could not examine changes in contraceptive use, interpregnancy interval, or unintended pregnancy, which are associated with pregnancy health^{41,42} and can be influenced by healthcare coverage and access.^{43,44} Although not all findings remained significant after accounting for multiple testing, the Holm–Bonferroni correction is conservative, and these findings still suggest impacts that are clinically relevant. Not all Medicaid-eligible women will enroll in Medicaid or seek preventive care services, and only a fraction of reproductive age women in BRFSS will go on to become pregnant in the near future, potentially limiting the population-level impact of these findings on pregnancy

health. An important next step is examining the impact of Medicaid expansion on pregnancy outcomes using data (unavailable in BRFSS) on women who do become pregnant post-expansion.

CONCLUSIONS

These findings indicate that expanding eligibility for Medicaid improves some, although not all, measures of health among low-income women of reproductive age. Even if only a fraction of these women go on to become pregnant in subsequent years, they may enter pregnancy in better health, particularly with respect to management of chronic disease. In light of the increased emphasis on preconception health care as a method of improving health at the outset of pregnancy, 6,10,12 and subsequently, improving outcomes for both women and infants, this study provides important data suggesting that increasing health insurance coverage for low-income women prior to pregnancy may play an important role in preconception health.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Figure 1.

Analytic sample from 2011–2016 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey data.

Table 1.

Descriptive Characteristics by Expansion Status and Difference-in-Difference (DID) Estimates (n=58,365)

	Overall	I	Expansion sta	tes	:	Control state	s		
Characteristics	n (%)	Pre- expansion n (%)	Post- expansion n (%)	Percentage point change pre to post	Pre- expansion n (%)	Post- expansion n (%)	Percentage point change pre to post	Minimally adjusted ^b DID β (p- value)	Adjusted ^C DID β (p- value)
Overall	58,365	10,628	5,871		26,670	15,196			
Race									
Non-Hispanic white/other	34,434 (59.0)	6,315 (59.5)	3,599 (61.3)	1.8	15,784 (59.2)	8,736 (57.5)	-1.7	-	-
Non-Hispanic black	11,375 (19.5)	1,471 (13.8)	771 (13.1)	-0.7	6,049 (22.7)	3,084 (20.3)	-2.4	_	_
Hispanic	12,556 (21.5)	2,842 (26.7)	1,501 (25.6)	-1.1	4,837 (18.1)	3,376 (22.2)	4.1	—	—
Education									
Did not graduate high school	10,283 (17.6)	1,906 (17.9)	981 (16.7)	-1.2	4,823 (18.1)	2,573 (16.9)	-1.2	-	-
Graduated high school	21,269 (36.4)	3,916 (36.8)	2,155 (36.7)	-0.1	9,709 (36.4)	5,489 (36.1)	-0.3	-	-
Attended college	19,403 (33.2)	3,585 (33.7)	1,976 (33.7)	0.0	8,838 (33.1)	5,004 (32.9)	-0.2	-	-
Graduated college	7,410 (12.7)	1,221 (11.5)	759 (12.9)	1.4	3,300 (12.4)	2,130 (14.0)	1.6	-	-
Marital status									
Married/ Unmarried couple vs Divorced, widowed, separated, never married	21,094 (36.1)	3,966 (37.3)	2,217 (37.8)	0.5	9,256 (34.7)	5,655 (37.2)	2.5	-	-
Dependent children in household?									
Yes	46,146 (79.1)	8,485 (79.8)	4,426 (75.4)	-4.4	21,438 (80.4)	11,797 (77.6)	-2.8	-	-
Health insurance									
Healthcare coverage	38,469 (66.1)	6,659 (62.8)	4,864 (83.2)	20.4	16,135 (60.7)	10,811 (71.4)	10.7	9.2 (<0.01)	9.0 (<0.01)
Access to health care									
Avoided seeking care due to cost	20,424 (35.1)	3,972 (37.4)	1,254 (21.4)	-16.0	10,511 (39.5)	4,687 (30.9)	-8.6	-7.3 (<0.01)	-7.4 (<0.01)
Preventive health care									
Check-up in last year	34,922 (60.8)	6,117 (58.4)	3,863 (67.2)	8.7	15,552 (56.2)	9,390 (62.9)	3.7	5.2 (<0.01)	5.1 (< 0.01) ^d
Ever had blood	20,901 (61.8)	4,088 (61.0)	1,711 (64.9)	3.9	10,777 (61.3)	4,325 (62.5)	1.2	2.0 (0.24)	2.2 (0.13)

	Overall	E	Expansion stat	tes		Control state	s		
Characteristics	n (%)	Pre- expansion n (%)	Post- expansion n (%)	Percentage point change pre to post	Pre- expansion n (%)	Post- expansion n (%)	Percentage point change pre to post	Minimally adjusted ^b DID β (p- value)	Adjusted ^C DID β (p- value)
cholesterol checked									
Last cholesterol check within a year	13,173 (64.1)	2,515 (62.3)	1,140 (67.9)	5.6	6,744 (63.6)	2,774 (65.5)	1.9	3.8 (0.05)	3.6 (0.06)
Overall health									
Self-rated health good/very good/excellent	44,154 (75.9)	7,877 (74.2)	4,435 (75.8)	1.6	20,296 (76.3)	11,546 (76.2)	-0.1	1.5 (0.16)	2.3 (0.03)
Experienced physical health distress in past month	9,190 (16.0)	1,808 (17.3)	947 (16.4)	-0.9	4,152 (15.8)	2,283 (15.3)	-0.5	-0.5 (0.55)	-1.0 (0.19)
Experienced mental health distress in past month	13,914 (24.2)	2,603 (24.8)	1,412 (24.4)	-0.4	6,338 (24.1)	3,561 (23.8)	-0.3	-0.6 (0.56)	-1.1 (0.23)
Chronic disease									
Has been told she has/had high blood pressure	6,316 (17.9)	1,216 (17.5)	446 (16.2)	-1.3	3,407 (18.6)	1,247 (17.2)	-1.4	-0.1 (0.95)	-0.6 (0.62)
Has been told she has/had high cholesterol	4,726 (22.7)	983 (24.2)	324 (19.0)	-5.2	2,549 (23.8)	870 (20.2)	-3.6	-1.2 (0.25)	-1.6 (0.13)
Has been told she has/had diabetes	3,490 (6.0)	601 (5.7)	323 (5.5)	-0.2	1,637 (6.1)	929 (6.1)	0.0	-0.1 (0.69)	-0.4 (0.25)
Has been told she has/had prediabetes or borderline diabetes	1,798 (7.8)	354 (7.2)	201 (8.8)	1.6	700 (7.6)	543 (8.2)	0.6	0.0 (0.97)	-0.3 (0.77)
Currently taking blood pressure	3,526 (55.9)	644 (53.0)	259 (58.2)	5.2	1,935 (56.8)	688 (55.2)	-1.6	7.3 (< 0.01) ^d	7.9 (< 0.01) ^d
medication									
Currently takes insulin ^{a}	481 (34.9)	111 (30.7)	36 (34.3)	3.6	237 (37.0)	97 (35.7)	-1.3	12.4 (0.02)	11.4 (<0.01)
Health behaviors		()				()		()	(
Smoking cessation attempt in last year ^a	11,814 (64.7)	2,240 (62.2)	1,119 (61.9)	-0.3	5,662 (66.0)	2,793 (65.4)	-0.6	0.2 (0.90)	0.3 (0.87)
Underweight or normal weight vs overweight or obese	19,481 (35.8)	3,694 (37.0)	1,973 (36.4)	-0.6	8,902 (35.6)	4,912 (35.1)	-0.5	-0.1 (0.92)	-0.3 (0.75)
Binge drinking	7,893 (14.3)	1,463 (14.5)	770 (13.7)	-0.8	3,646 (14.5)	2,014 (13.9)	-0.6	-0.5 (0.55)	-0.8 (0.25)

	Overall	Expansion states				Control state			
Characteristics	n (%)	Pre- expansion n (%)	Post- expansion n (%)	Percentage point change pre to post	Pre- expansion n (%)	Post- expansion n (%)	Percentage point change pre to post	Minimally adjusted ^b DID β (p- value)	Adjusted ^C DID β (p- value)
Heavy drinking	2,496 (4.5)	482 (4.8)	241 (4.3)	-0.5	1,125 (4.5)	648 (4.5)	0.0	-0.7 (0.09)	-1.0 (0.01)

Note: Boldface indicates statistical significance (p < 0.05).

aThis item was asked to only a subset of the sample based on responses to prior survey items (Appendix Tables 4 and 5).

 b Models include only state, year, and the interaction between expansion status and pre/post time period.

^CModels additionally adjusted for state, year, race, education, marital status, dependent children, age group, employment status, household size, income group, and state average unemployment rate.

^dReject null hypothesis after applying Holm-Bonferroni correction.

Table 2.

Adjusted^a Difference-in-Difference (DID) Estimates Stratified by Marital Status and Dependent Children in the Household

Outcome	All women (n=58,365)	Married (n=21,094)	Not married (n=37,271)	Dependent children (n=46,146)	No dependent children (n=12,219)	
	DID estimate (95% CI)	DID estimate (95% CI)	DID estimate (95% CI)	DID estimate (95% CI)	DID estimate (95% CI)	
Health insurance						
Has healthcare coverage	9.0 (2.9, 15.2)	11.9 (4.1, 19.7)	7.6 (2.2, 12.9)	7.6 (0.8, 14.4)	13.9 (8.7, 19.2) ^d	
Access to health care						
Avoided seeking care due to cost	-7.4 (-12.2, -2.6)	-8.5 (-14.4, -2.6)	-6.8 (-11.5, -2.2)	-6.7 (-11.9, -1.5)	-10.5 (-16.2, -4.8) ^d	
Preventive health care						
Check-up in last year	5.1 (1.8 , 8.4) ^{<i>c,d</i>}	6.2 (1.3, 11.2)	4.5 (1.3, 7.9)	4.6 (1.3, 7.9)	7.2 (2.5, 11.9)	
Ever had blood cholesterol checked	2.2 (-0.7, 5.1)	-1.7 (-6.5, 3.1)	4.6 (1.3, 7.9)	0.8 (-3.0, 4.6)	6.8 (3.1, 10.4) ^d	
Last cholesterol check within a year	3.6 (-0.1, 7.2) ^C	2.1 (-3.1, 7.4)	4.4 (-0.2, 8.9)	3.4 (-0.1, 6.9)	4.5 (-3.8, 12.9)	
Overall health						
Self-rated health good/ very good/excellent	$2.3(0.3,4.3)^{C}$	2.3 (-0.4, 5.0)	2.3 (-0.2, 4.8)	2.4 (-0.3, 5.0)	1.9 (-1.4, 5.2)	
Experienced physical health distress in past month	-1.0 (-2.6, 0.5) ^C	0.7 (-1.7, 3.0)	-2.0 (-4.2, 0.2)	-1.8 (-3.7, 0.2)	1.7 (-0.1, 3.5)	
Experienced mental health distress in past month	-1.1 (-3.0, 0.7)	-1.3 (-4.2, 1.7)	-1.0 (-3.0, 1.0)	-1.2 (-3.3, 1.0)	-1.4 (-5.0, 2.2)	
Chronic disease						
Told high blood pressure	-0.6 (-3.2, 1.9)	-2.1 (-5.8, 1.7)	0.3 (-3.0, 3.5)	-1.3 (-3.9, 1.4)	1.4 (-3.1, 5.9)	
Told high cholesterol	-1.6 (-3.6, 0.5)	-1.8 (-6.8, 3.2)	-1.3 (-5.3, 2.7)	-1.1 (-3.7, 1.4)	-3.7 (-8.1, 0.7)	
Told diabetes	-0.4 (-1.1, 0.3)	-0.5 (-2.0, 0.9)	-0.3 (-1.1, 0.6)	-0.4 (-1.2, 0.4)	-0.3 (-2.0, 1.3)	
Told prediabetes	-0.3 (-2.7, 2.0)	-2.3 (-5.3, 0.7)	0.7 (-2.0, 3.5)	-0.9 (-3.7, 1.8)	1.8 (-1.6, 5.2)	
Currently taking blood pressure medication b	7.9 (3.1 , 12.8) ^d	9.0 (-0.2, 18.2)	8.7 (2.0, 15.3)	6.8 (0.4, 13.2)	10.6 (1.8, 19.3)	
Currently takes insulin ^b	11.4 (3.0, 19.7)	22.7 (2.5, 42.9)	5.9 (-7.6, 19.3)	8.9 (0.3, 17.5)	19.0 (-2.4, 40.4)	
Health behaviors						
Smoking cessation	0.3 (-3.3, 3.9)	-1.6 (-6.1, 2.8)	1.2 (-3.5, 5.9)	0.5 (-3.6, 4.5)	-1.6 (-8.3, 5.2)	
attempt in last year ⁰						
Underweight/normal vs overweight/obese	-0.3 (-1.9, 1.4) ^C	2.0 (-1.9, 5.9)	-1.3 (-3.2, 0.7)	-0.2 (-2.1, 1.7)	-0.1 (-3.4, 3.2)	
Binge drinking	-0.8 (-2.3, 0.6)	-0.7 (-2.6, 1.2)	-1.0 (-2.8, 0.8)	-0.8 (-2.4, 0.7)	-1.3 (-4.5, 2.0)	
Heavy drinking	-1.0 (-1.8, -0.2)	-0.8 (-1.8, 0.2)	-1.1 (-2.2, 0.0)	-0.8 (-1.5, 0.0)	-2.1 (-4.3, 0.1)	

Note: Boldface indicates statistical significance (*p*<0.05).

^aModels additionally adjusted for state, year, race, education, marital status, dependent children, age group, employment status, household size, income group, and state average unemployment rate.

 b This item was asked to only a subset of the sample (Appendix Tables 4 and 5).

^cDid not meet parallel trends assumption.

 $d_{\mbox{Reject}}$ null hypothesis after applying Holm-Bonferroni correction.

Table 3.

Adjusted^a Associations Between Simulated Probability of Medicaid Eligibility and Outcomes in 38 States and Washington DC

Outcome	All women (n=212,836)	All women Married Not married (n=212,836) (n=123,397) (n=89,439)		Dependent children (n=149,618)	No dependent children (n=63,218)
	DID estimate	DID estimate	DID estimate	DID estimate	DID estimate
	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)
Health insurance					
Has healthcare coverage	15.9	32.3	12.9	30.6	9.4
	(8.0, 23.7) ^C	(18.7, 45.8) ^C	(6.1, 19.6) ^C	(18.6, 42.6) ^C	(3.7, 15.2) ^C
Access to health care					
Avoided seeking care due to cost	-9.9	-17.5	-8.6	-20.5	-5.3
	(-16.5, -3.4)	(-28.5, -6.4) ^C	(-14.6, -2.6)	(-30.6, -10.4) ^C	(-10.5, -0.1)
Preventive health care					
Check-up in last year	7.4	16.7	5.8	13.5	4.8
	(0.7, 14.2)	(5.3, 28.2)	(-0.4, 11.9)	(4.0, 23.1)	(-1.4, 11.0)
Ever had blood cholesterol checked	0.7	-3.6	1.5	2.9	-0.1
	(-3.9, 5.4)	(-15.4, 8.2)	(-4.0, 7.0)	(-8.5, 14.3)	(-5.9, 5.6)
Last cholesterol check within a year	8.8 (1.4, 16.2)	23.5 (6.4, 40.6)	6.0 (-2.3, 14.2)	14.9 (4.1, 25.8)	5.6 (-3.4, 14.7)
Overall health					
Self-rated health good/very good/	2.3	2.7	2.3	6.5	0.5
excellent	(0.5, 4.2)	(-2.4, 7.9)	(0.4, 4.1)	(1.2, 11.8)	(-1.8, 2.8)
Experienced physical health distress in past month	-0.9	2.3	-1.5	-4.1	0.5
	(-2.9, 1.1)	(-3.4, 7.9)	(-3.7, 0.8)	(-7.5, -0.6)	(-1.6, 2.6)
Experienced mental health distress in past month	-1.9	1.2	-2.5	-1.3	-2.1
	(-4.7, 1.0)	(-4.4, 6.9)	(-5.7, 0.8)	(-7.0, 4.4)	(-5.2, 0.9)
Chronic disease					
Told high blood pressure	2.0	6.3	1.2	5.0	0.7
	(-2.8, 6.7)	(-5.4, 18.1)	(-3.4, 5.9)	(-1.2, 11.2)	(-4.5, 6.0)
Told high cholesterol	-1.3	3.9	-2.3	-1.2	-1.4
	(-6.0, 3.3)	(-9.0, 16.8)	(-7.8, 3.1)	(-9.8, 7.4)	(-6.7, 3.9)
Told diabetes	-0.2 (-1.2, 0.9)	1.4 (-1.5, 4.2)	-0.5 (-1.7, 0.8)	0.3 (-2.3, 2.8)	-0.4 (-1.8, 1.0)
Told prediabetes	0.3	-2.4	0.9	-2.1	1.7
	(-3.8, 4.3)	(-9.7, 4.8)	(-3.6, 5.4)	(-6.2, 2.1)	(-2.8, 6.2)
Currently taking blood pressure medication b	3.3	-4.9	4.7	-7.8	13.5
	(-8.8, 15.4)	(-54.5, 44.6)	(-11.1, 20.5)	(-23.9, 8.2)	(-5.9, 33.0)
Currently takes insulin ^b	34.4 (-10.7, 79.5)	104.1 (10.6, 197.7)	14.7 (-27.1, 56.5)	22.7 (-62.9, 108.3)	44.7 (11.3, 78.1)
Health behaviors					
Smoking cessation attempt in last year b	-2.6	4.7	-4.1	7.4	-10.3
	(-10.3, 5.1)	(-10.7, 20.0)	(-11.7, 3.6)	(-8.5, 23.3)	(-19.1, -1.6)
Underweight/normal vs	-0.3	4.6	-1.2	0.9	-0.9
overweight/obese	(-3.8, 3.2)	(-6.4, 15.7)	(-4.7, 2.4)	(-6.1, 8.0)	(-5.7, 4.0)
Binge drinking	-3.3	4.4	-4.7	-2.1	-3.8
	(-6.5, -0.1)	(-2.8, 11.7)	(-8.2, -1.3)	(-7.3, 3.2)	(-7.6, -0.1)
Heavy drinking	-1.8 (-3.9, 0.4)	-1.7 (-6.0, 2.5)	-1.8 (-4.2, 0.6)	-3.6 (-6.0, -1.2)	-1.0 (-3.5, 1.6)

Note: Boldface indicates statistical significance (*p*<0.05).

 $^a\!\mathrm{Models}$ additionally adjusted for demographic subgroup-by-state and subgroup-by-year fixed effects.

 $b_{\ensuremath{\mathsf{This}}}$ item was asked to only a subset of the sample (Appendix Tables 4 and 5).

 $^{\it C}$ Reject null hypothesis after applying Holm-Bonferroni correction.