



Virginia MIRC< vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov>

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## New MIRC Comment

1 message

Fri, Sep 27, 2013 at 11:13 AM

Reply-To: [REDACTED]

To: vamirc@mirc.virginia.gov

**First Name** - Sara

**Last Name** - Long

**Organization Name** - March of Dimes

**Comment** - The March of Dimes feels it is essential to expand Medicaid coverage. Approx. 45% of all deliveries are covered by Medicaid and health insurance coverage is key to adequate prenatal care. Over two hundred babies are born too early in VA. With adequate care, these numbers can be reduced at a considerable savings to the Commonwealth.



Medicaid Expansion VA Factsheet 6.13.pptx

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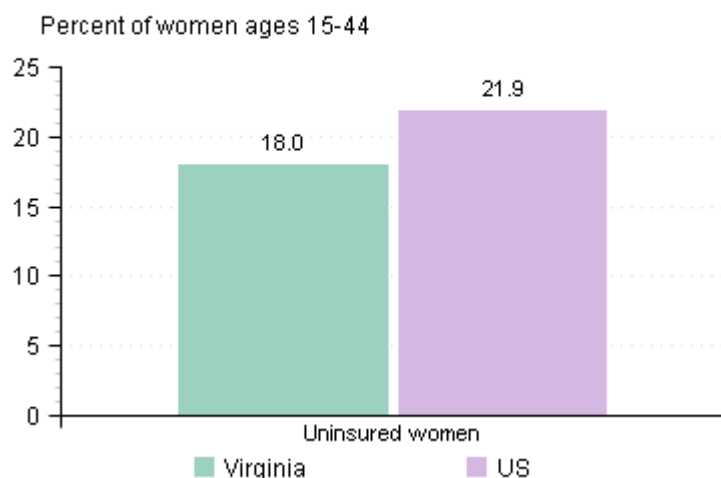
## Medicaid Expansion

The March of Dimes supports expanding the Virginia Medicaid program to cover individuals newly eligible under the Affordable Care Act, particularly women of childbearing age.

Studies have shown conclusively that lack of access to health coverage causes women to delay or forego needed health treatment, including both preventive and sick care. For women of childbearing age, this means that critical opportunities to improve their health before pregnancy are missed. If women can obtain regular health care services to help them quit smoking, achieve a healthy weight, and maintain normal blood pressure and blood sugar levels, they are much more likely to have a healthy pregnancy and baby. The Medicaid expansion provides states with the opportunity to extend health coverage to women before and between pregnancies, improving health for both them and their infants.

In addition, extending health coverage to parents improves access to care and a greater use of appropriate care for children. Children with health insurance whose parents are insured are less likely to have unmet health care needs compared to insured children with uninsured parents.

### Uninsured women: Virginia and US, 2009-2011 Average



### Key Points

In our state, many women of childbearing age have no access to health coverage before they become pregnant.

- During the years 2009-2011, an average of 18% of women of childbearing age were uninsured in Virginia.
- About 110,000 uninsured women of childbearing age in our state would be eligible if Medicaid were expanded up to 133% of the federal poverty level.
- In our state, working parents of dependent children are eligible for Medicaid coverage up to 30% of federal poverty level, while jobless parents are eligible for Medicaid coverage up to 25% of federal poverty level.
- Women of childbearing age could benefit from preventive care such as tobacco cessation, nutrition counseling, and blood pressure monitoring to improve their health and help ensure a healthy pregnancy.

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