

## About Thriving PA

Thriving PA is a non-partisan, statewide campaign that seeks to improve the quality of and increase access to a coordinated system of health supports, including access to comprehensive perinatal health services, children's health insurance, nutrition supports, and lead screening and abatement.

The campaign's goal is to ensure each birthing person and child in Pennsylvania has the opportunity for affordable, quality health care access!

### Perinatal Health Policy Priorities

- Extend access to postpartum coverage for mothers enrolled in Medicaid beyond the current 60-day period to 12 months.
- Advance behavioral health prenatal and postpartum screenings that include evidenced-based depression screenings with anxiety questions and behavioral screenings, including substance use screenings.
- Increase the coordination of services for pregnant and postpartum mothers who were screened and identified with depression or other behavioral health diagnoses to ensure they receive needed services.
- Advance doula service reimbursement in Medicaid.

### Children's Health Insurance Policy Priorities

- Educate families about free or low-cost, affordable options for health insurance through Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the state-based marketplace Pennie.
- Encourage policymakers to expand CHIP for pregnant women and children, regardless of immigration status, by:
  - Passing legislation to include children not currently eligible for health insurance due to their immigration status because every child living in Pennsylvania deserves a healthy start for success in school in life.
  - Seeking federal approval to expand CHIP to include pregnant women and birthing individuals currently not eligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status because access to vital prenatal and postpartum care increases the likelihood of healthy pregnancies and healthy babies.

### Prenatal and Children's Nutrition (Women, Infants, and Children Program – WIC) Policy Priorities

- Support WIC's financial stability and modernization to ensure food security and nutrition for pregnant women and young children.

### Children's Lead Screening and Abatement Policy Priorities

- Improve Medicaid and CHIP managed care adherence to the EPSDT required schedule of lead testing, including removing barriers to getting capillary tests.
- Create a regulatory or legal requirement that every child tested for exposure and tests positive is referred to early intervention for services.
- Advocate for state funding for lead paint remediation, including the utilization of Health Service Initiatives and paint tax money.





## Perinatal Health

**1 in 7 women**

experience perinatal depression, making it the **number one complication** of pregnancy.

In PA, pregnancy-associated deaths

**increased by 21%**

between 2013 and 2018.

- During this time period, **Non-Hispanic Black women accounted for 23%** of pregnancy-associated deaths, but only 14% of births.



## Children's Health Insurance

In PA, there are still more than

**18,000 children**

**under the age of 3 who lack insurance coverage**, which is the

**4th highest** in the country.



## Nutrition

Of the **180,000 Pennsylvanians**

receiving WIC in January 2021, **over half were children under the age of 5**

Between 2016 and 2020, **WIC participation** overall

**declined by 21%.**

Infant participation **during that timeframe**

**declined by 27.5%.**



## Lead Screening and Abatement

**Nearly 9,000 children** are poisoned by lead each year in Pennsylvania

Black and Hispanic children are

**disproportionately poisoned.**

In PA, nearly **five times more Black children and two times more Hispanic children are poisoned** than white children.

# Partners

## Perinatal Health



## Children's Health Insurance



## Prenatal and Children's Nutrition (Women, Infants, and Children Program – WIC)



## Children's Lead Screening and Abatement



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