

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

[HEALTH AFFAIRS](#) > [VOL. 34, NO. 7](#): MEDICAID'S EVOLVING DELIVERY SYSTEMS

# Reducing Medicaid Churning: Extending Eligibility For Twelve Months Or To End Of Calendar Year Is Most Effective

[Katherine Swartz](#), [Pamela Farley Short](#), [Deborah Roempke Graefe](#), and [Namrata Uberoi](#)[AFFILIATIONS](#) >

Katherine Swartz ( [kswartz@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:kswartz@hsph.harvard.edu) ) is a professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, in Boston, Massachusetts.

Pamela Farley Short is a professor in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, in University Park.

Deborah Roempke Graefe is a research associate at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, in University Park.

Namrata Uberoi is an analyst in health care financing at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, in University Park.

PUBLISHED: JULY 2015 **No Access** <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001611>

[View](#)

## Online Forum Event - Open To All

Journal Club: "Antidepressant Prescriptions Increased For Privately Insured People With Perinatal Mood And Anxiety Disorders, 2008–2020"

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 | 3-4 pm EDT

[Register here!](#)

## Abstract

Medicaid churning—the constant exit and reentry of beneficiaries as their eligibility changes—has long been a problem for both Medicaid administrators and recipients. Churning will continue under the Affordable Care Act because, despite new federal rules, Medicaid eligibility will continue to be based on current monthly income. We developed a longitudinal simulation model to evaluate four policy options for modifying or extending Medicaid eligibility to reduce churning. The simulations suggest that two options—extending eligibility either to the end of a calendar year or for twelve months after enrollment—would be the most effective methods for reducing churning. The other options—a three-month extension or eligibility based on projected annual income—would reduce churning to a lesser extent. States should consider implementation of the option that best balances costs while improving access to coverage and, thereby, the health of Medicaid enrollees.

## TOPICS

### Health Affairs Comment Policy

Comment moderation is in use. Please do not submit your comment twice -- it will appear shortly.

Please read our Comment Policy before commenting.

Got it

0 Comments

1 Login ▾

G

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?

D

f

X

G

♡

• Share

Best

Newest

Oldest

Be the first to comment.

[Leading To Health](#)  
[More Topics](#)

## CONTENT

[Journal](#)  
[Forefront](#)  
[Scholar](#)  
[Briefs](#)  
[Events](#)  
[Podcasts](#)  
[Collected Works](#)

## INFORMATION FOR

[Authors](#)  
[Request For Abstracts](#)  
[Reviewers](#)  
[Subscribers](#)  
[Advertisers](#)  
[Media News Room](#)  
[Funders](#)  
[Event Attendees](#)

## SERVICES & RESOURCES

[Submit Content](#)  
[Subscribe](#)  
[Renew](#)  
[Membership](#)  
[Manage My Account](#)  
[Purchase Content](#)  
[Permissions](#)  
[Alerts](#)  
[Newsletter Sign Up](#)  
[Advertising Kit](#)

## HEALTH AFFAIRS

[About](#)  
[Impact Report](#)  
[Terms & Conditions](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#)  
[Jobs At Health Affairs](#)  
[Fellowships](#)  
[Contact Us](#)



Standard of  
Excellence  
Winner



[Terms and conditions](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Project HOPE](#)

Health Affairs is pleased to offer [Free Access for low-income countries](#). Health Affairs gratefully acknowledges the support of many [funders](#).

Health Affairs is an official journal of [AcademyHealth](#).



SIXTY-FIVE YEARS OF  
HEALING PEOPLE AND  
TRANSFORMING LIVES

Project HOPE is a global health and humanitarian relief organization that places power in the hands of local health care workers to save lives across the globe. Project HOPE has published Health Affairs since 1981.

