

**Cookies Notification** ✕

This site uses cookies. By continuing to browse the site you are agreeing to our use of cookies.

[Find out more.](#)[Accept](#)

## 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 Policy and Administration at Pennsylvania State University, in University Park.

Deborah Roempke Graefe is a research associate at the Population Research Institute at Pennsylvania State University.

Namrata Uberoi is an analyst in health care financing at the Congressional Research Service, in Washington, D.C.

PUBLISHED: JULY 2015 **No Access** <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2014.1204>

[View Article](#)

## 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

- [MEDICAID](#) | [MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY](#) | [CASELOADS](#) | [AFFORDABLE CARE ACT](#) | [COST REDUCTION](#) | [MARKETPLACE ELIGIBILITY](#) | [BENEFICIARIES](#) | [CLINICAL CARE](#) | [ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION](#) | [CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS](#)

### 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

LOG IN WITH

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS ?



Name

• Share

Best Newest Oldest

Be the first to comment.

1101 Connecticut Ave NW #500

Washington, DC 20036

T 202 408 6801

F 301 654 2845

[customerservice@healthaffairs.org](mailto:customerservice@healthaffairs.org)

### TOPICS

- [Access & Use](#)
- [Costs & Spending](#)
- [COVID-19](#)
- [Health Equity](#)
- [Health Reform](#)
- [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](#)
- [Manage My Account](#)
- [Purchase Content](#)
- [Permissions](#)
- [Alerts](#)
- [Newsletter Sign Up](#)
- [Advertising Kit](#)

### ABOUT

- [About Health Affairs Publishing](#)
- [Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Fellowships](#)
- [Contact Us](#)



Standard of  
Excellence  
Winner



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

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

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



**Urgent relief.  
Lasting impact.**

Health Affairs Publishing, LLC, is a subsidiary of [Project HOPE](#), a nonprofit global health and humanitarian organization. Health Affairs Publishing is editorially independent from Project HOPE.

Copyright 1995 - 2026 by Health Affairs Publishing, LLC, eISSN 2694-233X.