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Maternity Clinical Episode Payment Draft White Paper: Implications for Childbearing Women and Families

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Childbirth Connection Programs

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About us



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Founded in 1918 as Maternity Center Association, Childbirth Connection became a core program of the National Partnership for Women & Families in 2014. We continue our longstanding work to transform U.S. maternity care on behalf of women and families.

More information is available at:

- www.ChildbirthConnection.org
- www.NationalPartnership.org

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations

Appreciate that design elements and operational considerations are based on:

- Existing maternity episode payment models to date
- Aspirational elements that may require further development to be achievable

Support design elements of maternity episode payment:

- Episode definition
- Timing of episode
- Focusing only on low-risk women may exclude too many women

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations: All Covered Services

Important to consider two types of underused services that present challenges:

- Currently covered services not directly related to pregnancy and birth (preventive screenings)
- Commonly uncovered but high-value pregnancy and birth services, such as doulas, care coordination, shared decision making, group prenatal care, breastfeeding support

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations: Engaging Women

Maternity care episode payment should support standardized use of these engagement strategies and models:

- Help women understand that choice of provider and birth setting are interrelated and – given extent of practice variation – could greatly impact their care options, experiences and outcomes
- Provide access to comparative quality data for decision making on providers/birth settings and support for finding and interpreting information

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations: Engaging Women

- Incent system to build women's skills, knowledge and confidence as they approach birth and new parenthood by measuring change in activation scores (PAM) from early to late pregnancy
- Integrate shared care planning into the episode, including:
 - Goal setting
 - Shared decision-making
 - Documenting preferences
 - Technology to make info available to woman and care team
- Provide access to high-quality childbirth education classes to help women learn about options and make informed decisions

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations: Engaging Women

- Educate women about benefits of doulas/continuous labor support through labor and birth (reduced cesareans), and include as enhanced service
- Consider other enhanced services including patient navigators, group prenatal care and the maternity home
- Provide online access to:
 - High-quality decision aids
 - Portal with user-friendly, evidence-based educational resources; enables women and clinicians to communicate, schedule appointments
 - Full health records

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations: Engaging Women

- Inform women that they are receiving care within an episode payment and the implications of such a care model for cost-sharing, quality, outcomes and participation

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations: Quality Metrics

Prioritize parsimonious set of high impact, nationally endorsed measures with low burden of collection, that capture quality and that are aligned across programs

- Gains in Patient Activation (PAM) Scores (#2483)
- Cesarean section (NTSV, PC-02, #0471)
- Exclusive breast milk feeding (PC-05, #0480)
- Unexpected newborn complications (#0716 Healthy Term Newborn)
- Contraceptive care postpartum (#2902)
- Screening for clinical depression and follow-up plan (#0418)

Selected Maternity Care Episode Recommendations: Quality Metrics

Further considerations:

- To capture maternity experiences, use questions from previous national surveys (e.g., *Listening to Mothers*)
- Identify postpartum functional status measure to capture such woman-reported outcomes as pain, ability to perform activities and depression
- Use measure of VBAC rate in low-risk women to address opportunity for improvement that complements the cesarean section rate above
- Combine measures into Quality Scorecards and provide access to quality info to women and other stakeholders

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- Mission is to improve the quality and value of maternity care through consumer engagement and health system transformation
- Leadership on:
 - Promoting safe, effective evidence-based maternity care
 - Improving maternity care policy and quality
 - Helping women navigate the complex health care system and make informed decisions
- Currently focused on advancing effective strategies for maternity care quality improvement:
 - Innovative delivery systems
 - Value-based payment systems
 - Consumer engagement
 - Performance measurement

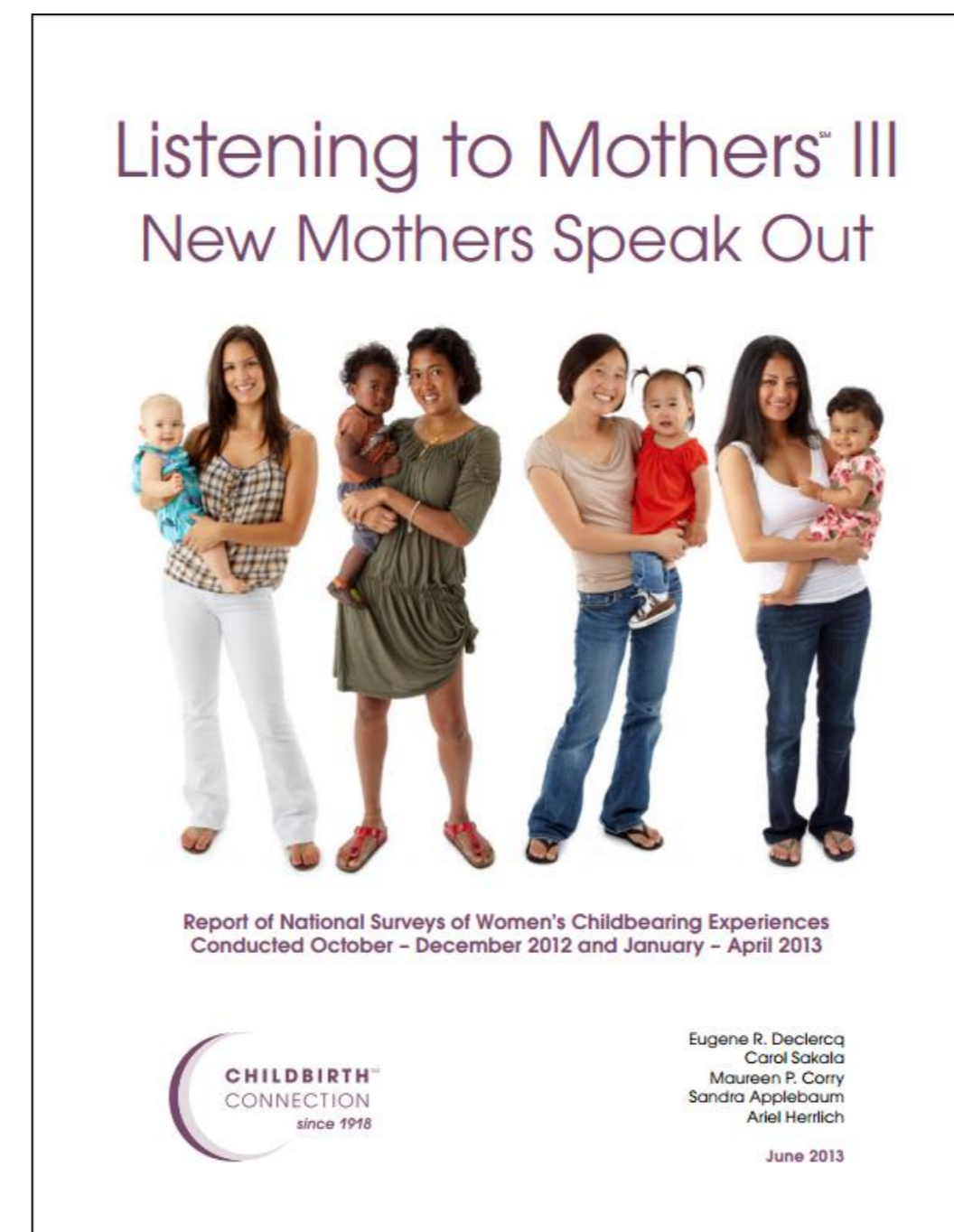
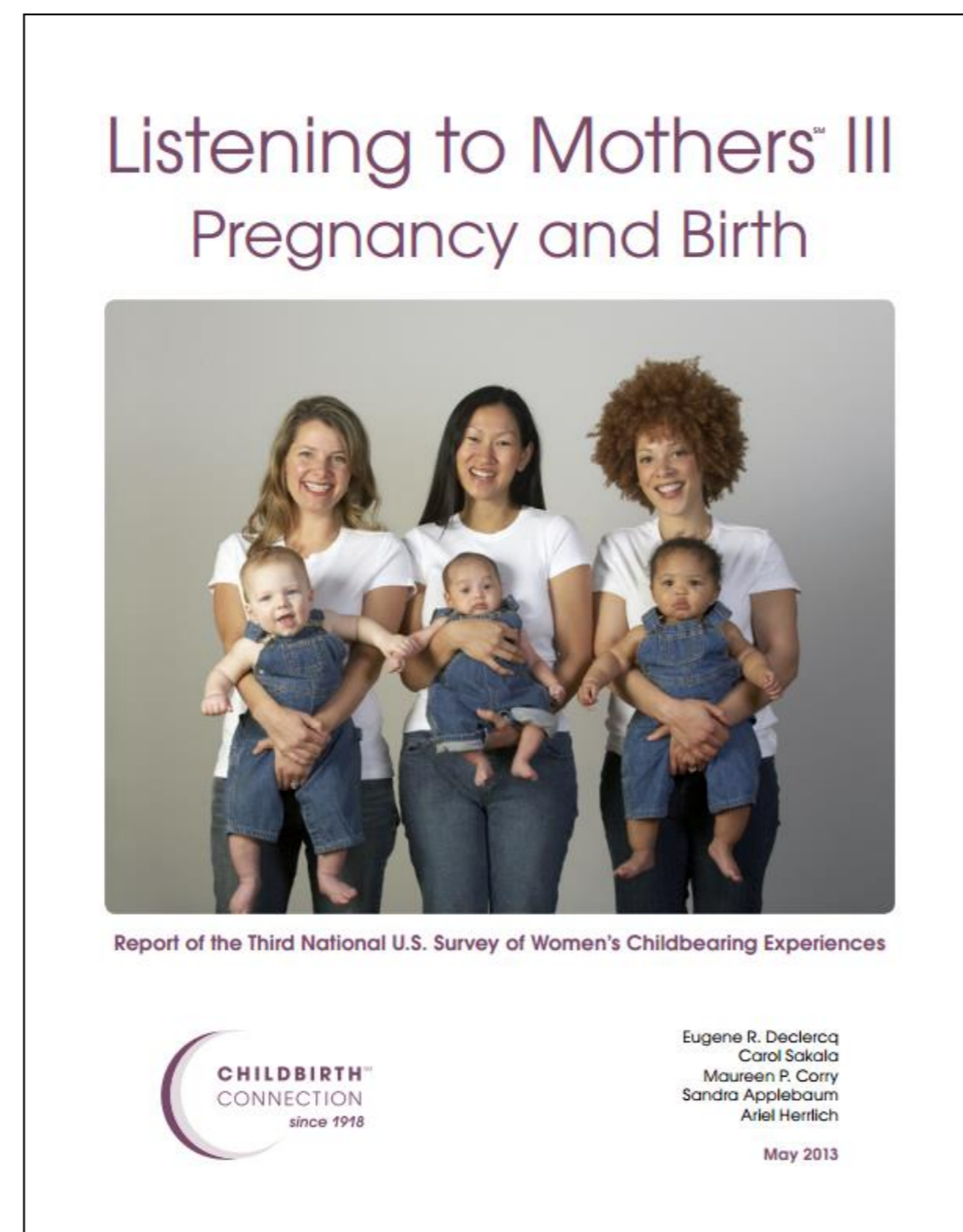
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- Work across continuum of clinical effectiveness resources and activities, including with:
 - Systematic reviews
 - Performance measures
 - Decision aids
 - Clinical practice guidelines
- Represent maternity care and health care consumers in general, on broad range of advisory bodies and work groups
- Partner with organizations and agencies from diverse stakeholder perspectives to advance high-value maternity and health care

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Pioneering national *Listening to Mothers* surveys

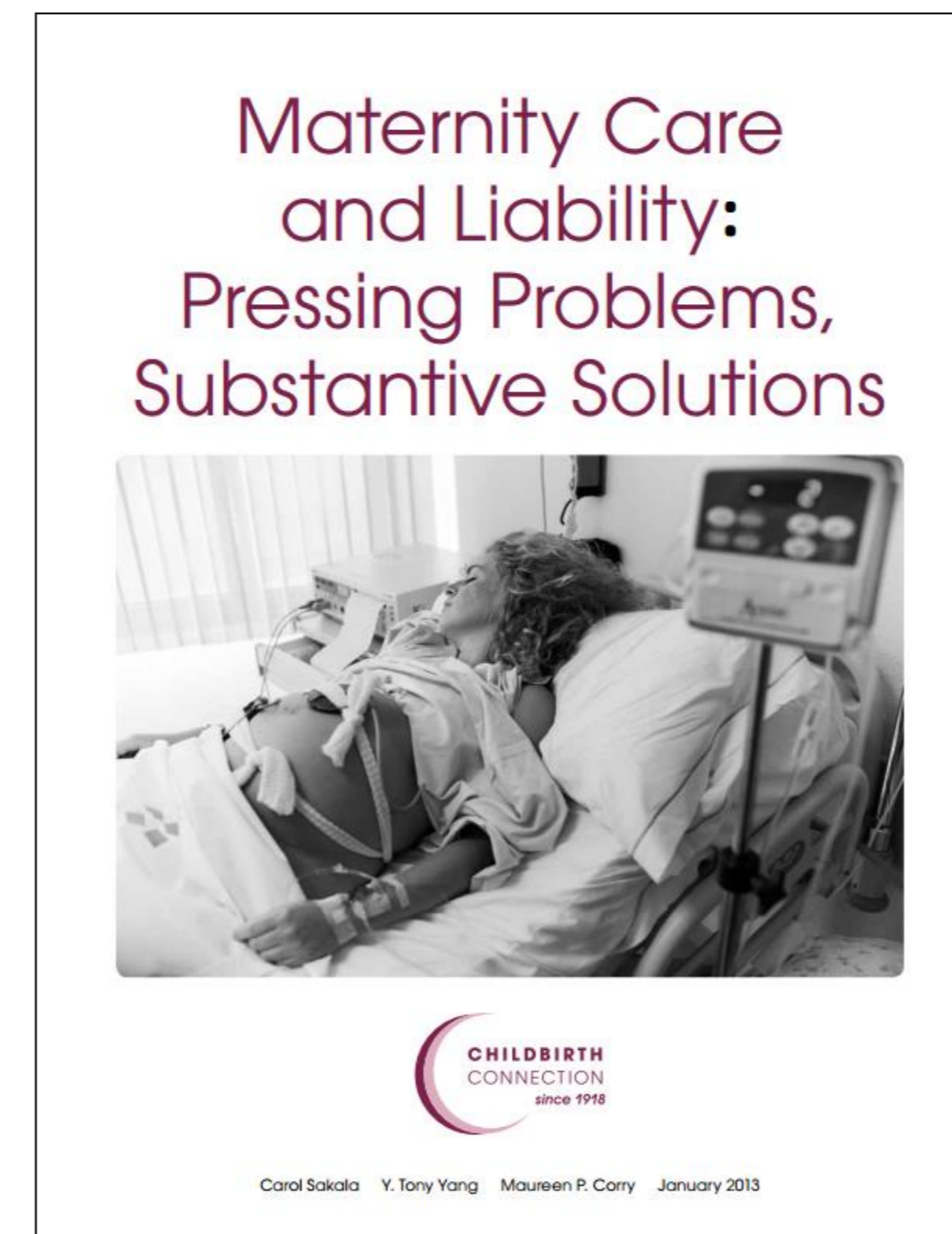
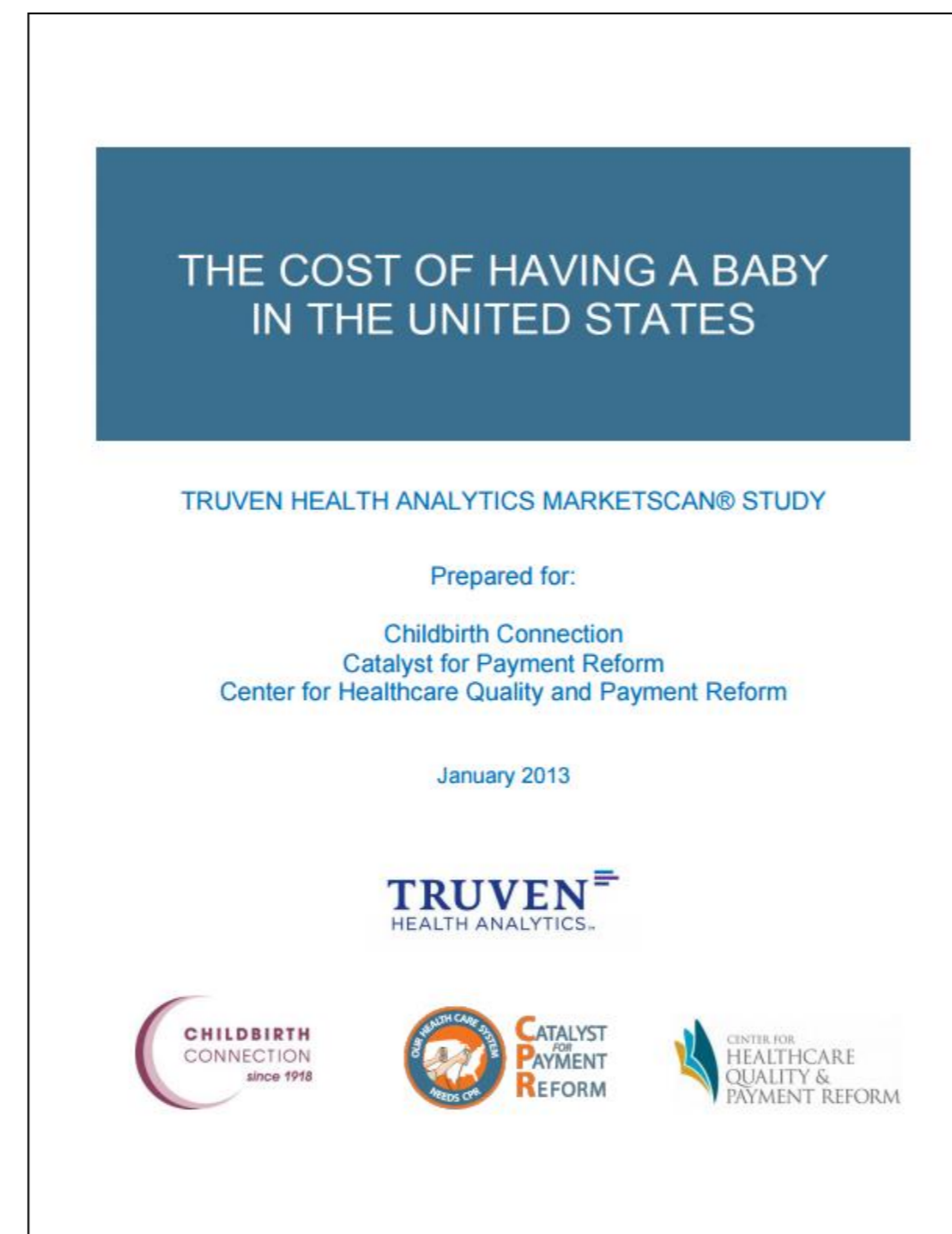
- Illuminate women's childbearing experiences and views from pregnancy through the postpartum period
- These have shaped policy, practice, education and research



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Other major resources for the field

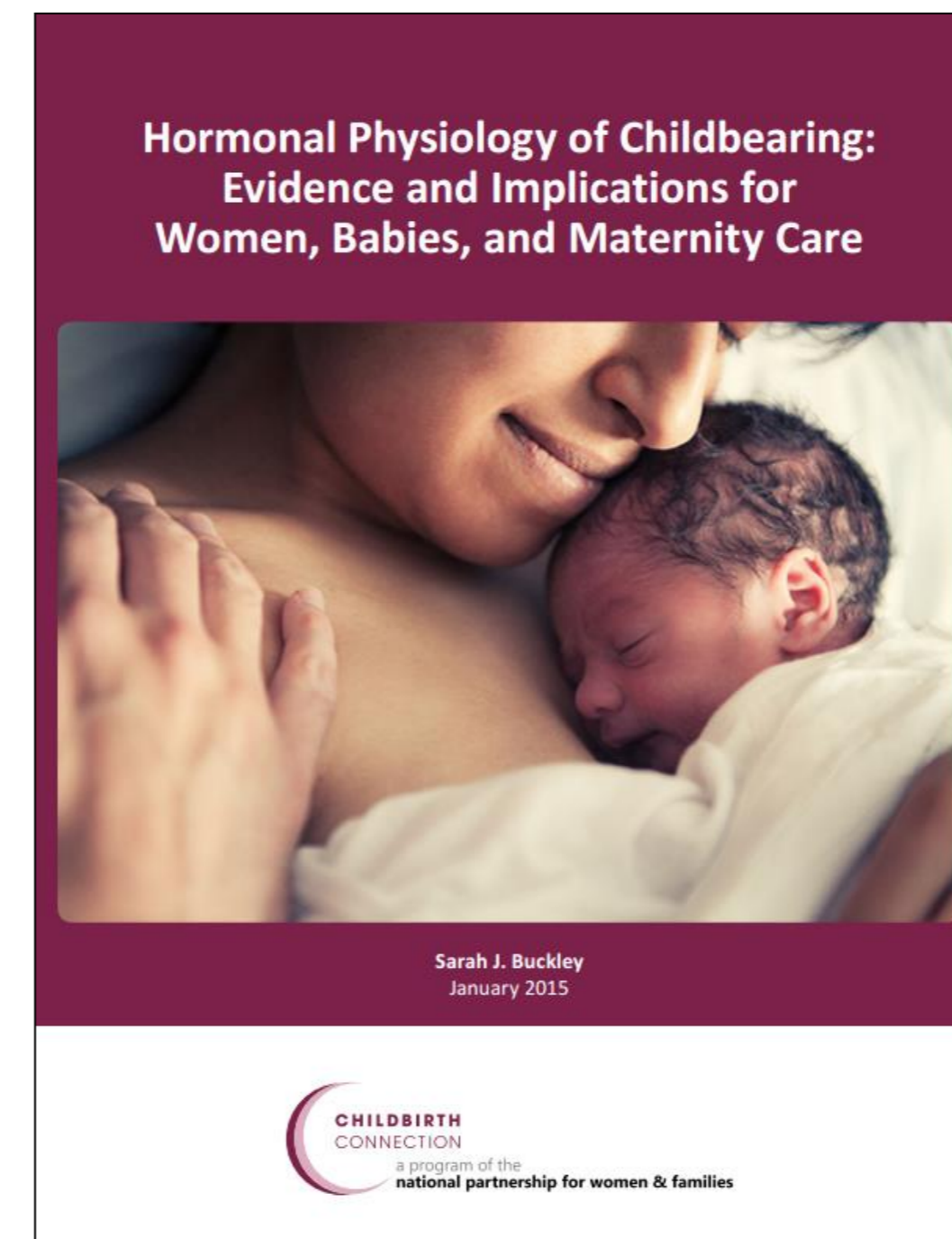
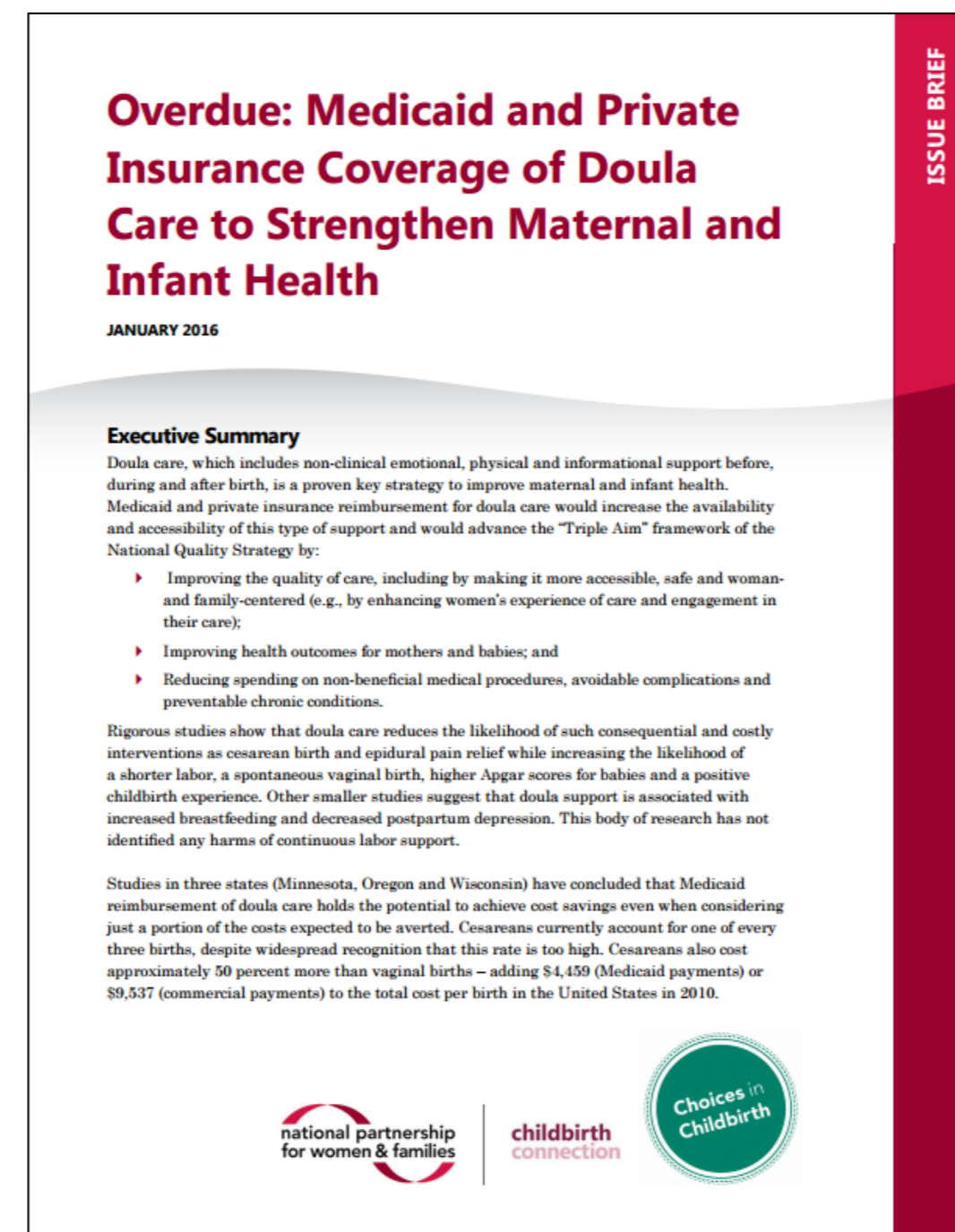
- *The Cost of Having a Baby in the United States*
- *Maternity Care and Liability*



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Other major resources for the field

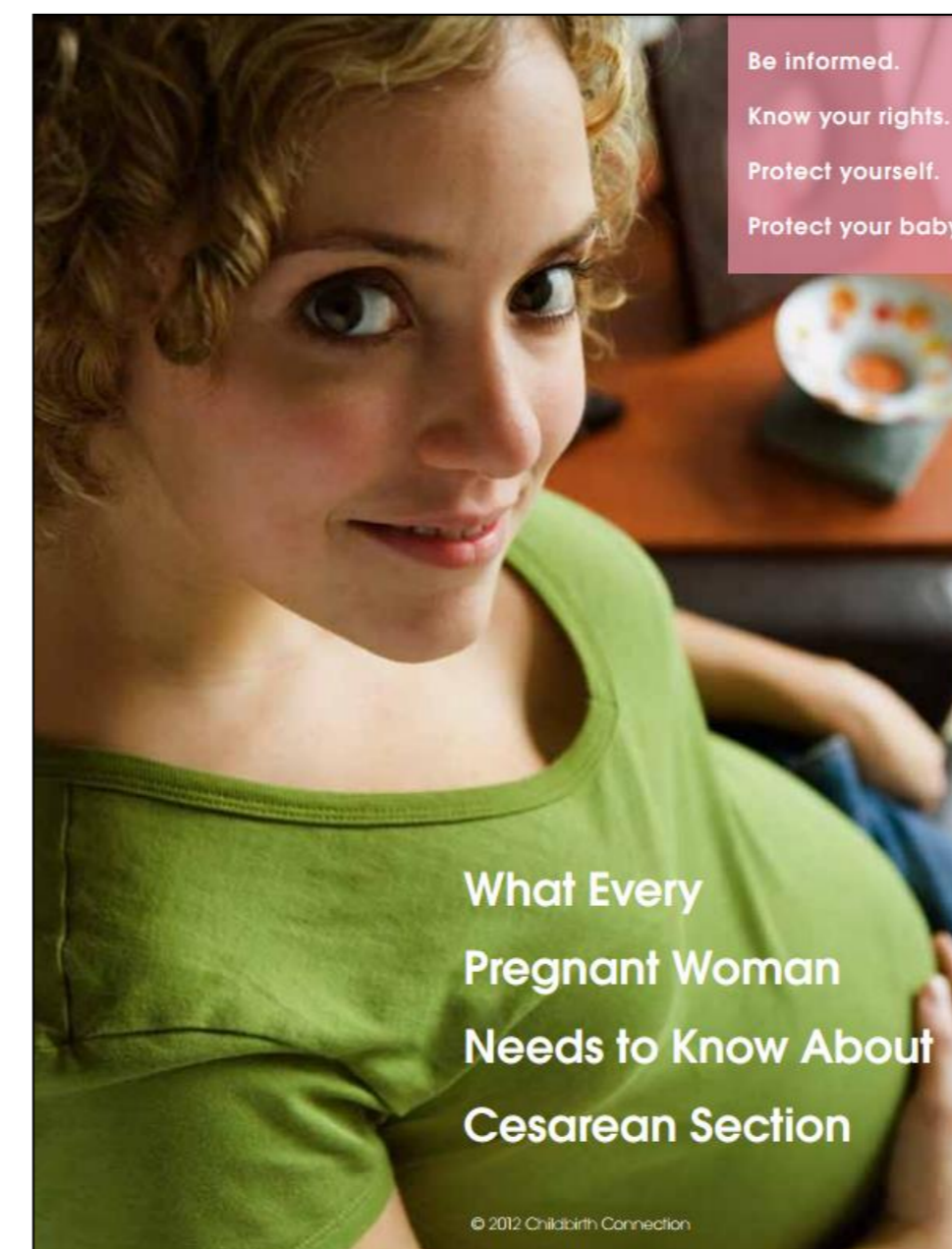
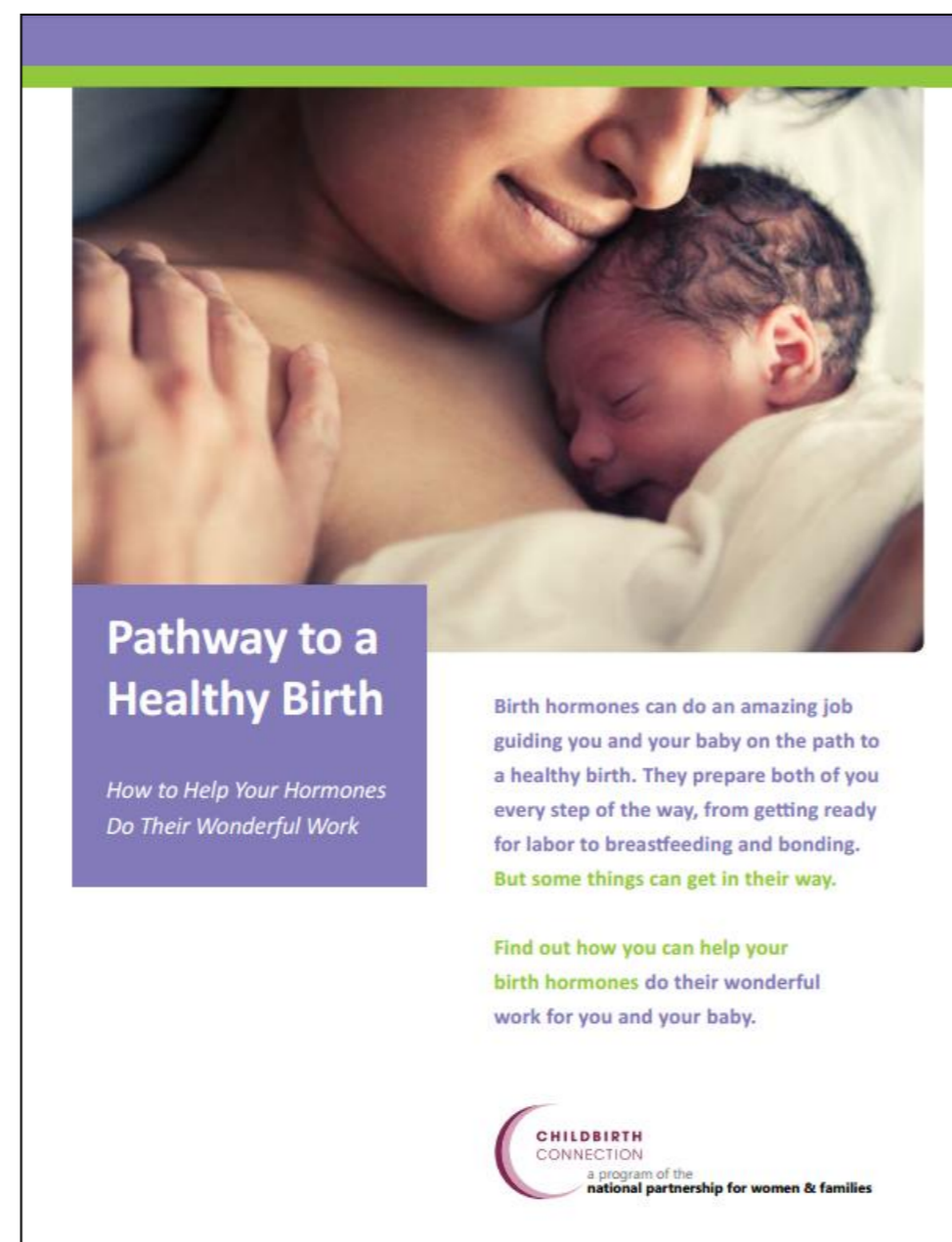
- *Overdue: Medicaid and Private Insurance Coverage of Doula Care*
- *Hormonal Physiology of Childbearing*



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Many resources to support childbearing women:

- Evidence-based website: ChildbirthConnection.org
- Questions to ask when making care choices
- Support for informed decision-making



Thank you!



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