

Overview of Children's Health Coverage in Texas

Texas is the uninsured capital of the United States...

- More than 5.8 million Texans – including 1.5 million children – lack health insurance.
- Texas' uninsurance rates are 1.5 to 2 times the national average, creating significant problems in the financing and delivery of health care to all Texans.
- Those who lack insurance coverage typically enjoy far-worse health status than their insured counterparts.
- Texas workers are less likely to have employment-based health insurance coverage. In 2007, Texas ranked 50th in the nation, with only 46.7 percent of Texans having employment-based health insurance coverage.

--Texas Medical Association

Texas business leaders support kids' health coverage...

"The need for Texas' children to have unimpeded access to healthcare is absolute. They are our future and the true measure of Texas' success. If we don't protect their welfare, Texas will be the worse for it. We strongly urge the Legislature to protect our children and the future of Texas."

--Richard E. Dayoub, President and CEO, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce

The Metro 8 Chambers "oppose any cuts to CHIP and Medicaid. The State of Texas should not cut state expenditures for these programs, which, in reality, shift the burden of those costs to local businesses, taxpayers, and providers."

--Metro 8 Chambers of Commerce 2011 Legislative Agenda

"Affordable high quality healthcare is an important factor in recruiting businesses and talent to the DFW area."

--Dallas Regional Chamber, 2011 Legislative Position

We all know that children and families need affordable health coverage...

Families USA:

"Eighty percent of the uninsured have at least one family member who works either full-time or part-time."

Texas Hospital Association:

"Medicaid provides anywhere from 50% - 80% of funding for children's hospitals in Texas—which serve our entire community."

Commonwealth Fund:

"Private health insurance is simply too expensive for many hard-working Texas families, costing on average over \$14,500 a month for a family of four."

Without Medicaid and CHIP 3 Million MORE Texas children would be uninsured...

Over 2.5 million Texas children are enrolled in Medicaid. That's 1 in every 3 Texas children.

Another 533,000 children in families just above the Medicaid limit are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Without Medicaid and CHIP, Texas would likely have an additional 3 million uninsured children and 1 million Texas adults and elderly with disabilities or in nursing homes.

Texas Medicaid also provides basic health care and life-saving supports to:

- 70 percent of seniors in nursing homes;
- Nearly all Texans with intellectual disabilities and other serious lifelong developmental or acquired disabilities;
- Prenatal care and delivery for 55 percent of Texas newborns;
- Hundreds of thousands of seniors and younger people with disabilities who avoid institutional care through Medicaid community supports; and
- Over 1,600 women every month who undergo treatment for breast or cervical cancer.

--Center for Public Policy Priorities

Texas CANNOT afford to cut Medicaid and CHIP funding...

The federal government pays just under 60 cents of every dollar of Texas Medicaid health care spending and about 70 cents for every dollar of Texas CHIP.

Deep cuts to Medicaid and CHIP would hurt our most vulnerable children, seniors, Texans with disabilities, and expectant mothers. We would also lose more federal health care matching dollars than we save if we cut Medicaid and CHIP.

Proposals to opt out of Medicaid and CHIP or treat them as fixed pot of money that doesn't grow with need would leave Texas unprotected in recessions and natural disasters.

Medicaid costs are growing at the same pace as private insurance, and much slower than Medicare. Medicaid's health spending must be controlled, but through system-wide reform across our whole U.S. health care system: Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance.

We support real reforms to Medicaid and CHIP—as an alternative to cuts—that incentivize accountability of providers and insurers for cost effective care, producing good outcomes that build coordination, continuity of care, and medical homes.

--Center for Public Policy Priorities