

# Looking Ahead: What's Next for Women's Preventive Healthcare in Texas



Women's Healthcare  
COALITION

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# 65 healthcare, advocacy, faith organizations

*Access to preventive healthcare,  
including contraception, for ALL Texas  
women*

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# Unintended (Unplanned) Pregnancy

- Late prenatal care
- Closely spaced pregnancies
- Higher risk of low birth weight, prematurity

**“Births resulting from unintended or closely spaced pregnancies are associated with adverse maternal and child health outcomes, such as delayed prenatal care, premature birth, and negative physical and mental health effects for children.”**

<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/unintended-pregnancy-united-states>

# Benefits of Family Planning (Contraception)

- Healthier babies
- Healthier mothers
- Stronger Families
- Fiscal Savings



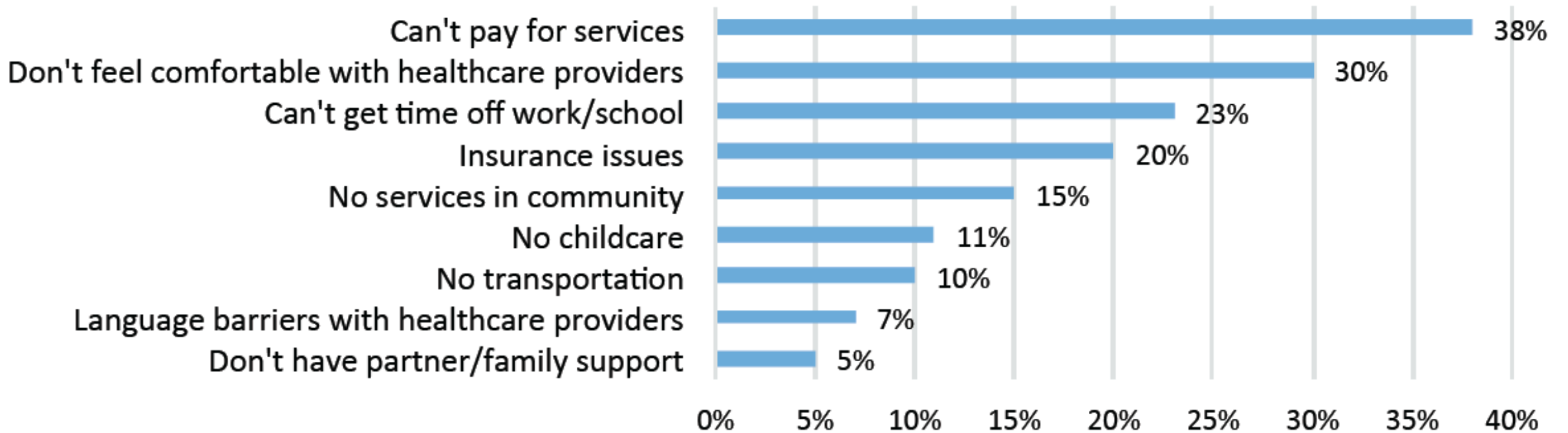


# Women's Preventive Healthcare Services

- Well-woman exams
- Screenings
- Contraceptive counseling, methods, and supplies
- Additional services

Not Abortion

# Barriers to Reproductive Health Care in Texas





# 2016 Coastal Bend Health Needs Assessment

**39%**

Respondents experienced barriers to access to routine health care

Cost

Could not get in

Insurance not accepted

Transportation

Coastal Bend population under 65 years old who are uninsured

**23%**



**Received a PAP smear in the past 12 months**

**42% of all women**

**22% of uninsured women**

**Received a mammogram in the past 12 months**

**37% of all women**

**12% of uninsured women**

Top 10 chronic conditions include hypertension and diabetes

Of all births, 7.7% of newborns weighed less than 2,300 grams

**Recommendations:** Increase women's health literacy; Increase number of culturally sensitive education programs about women's health issues; Provide supportive measures to increase utilization of preventive screenings

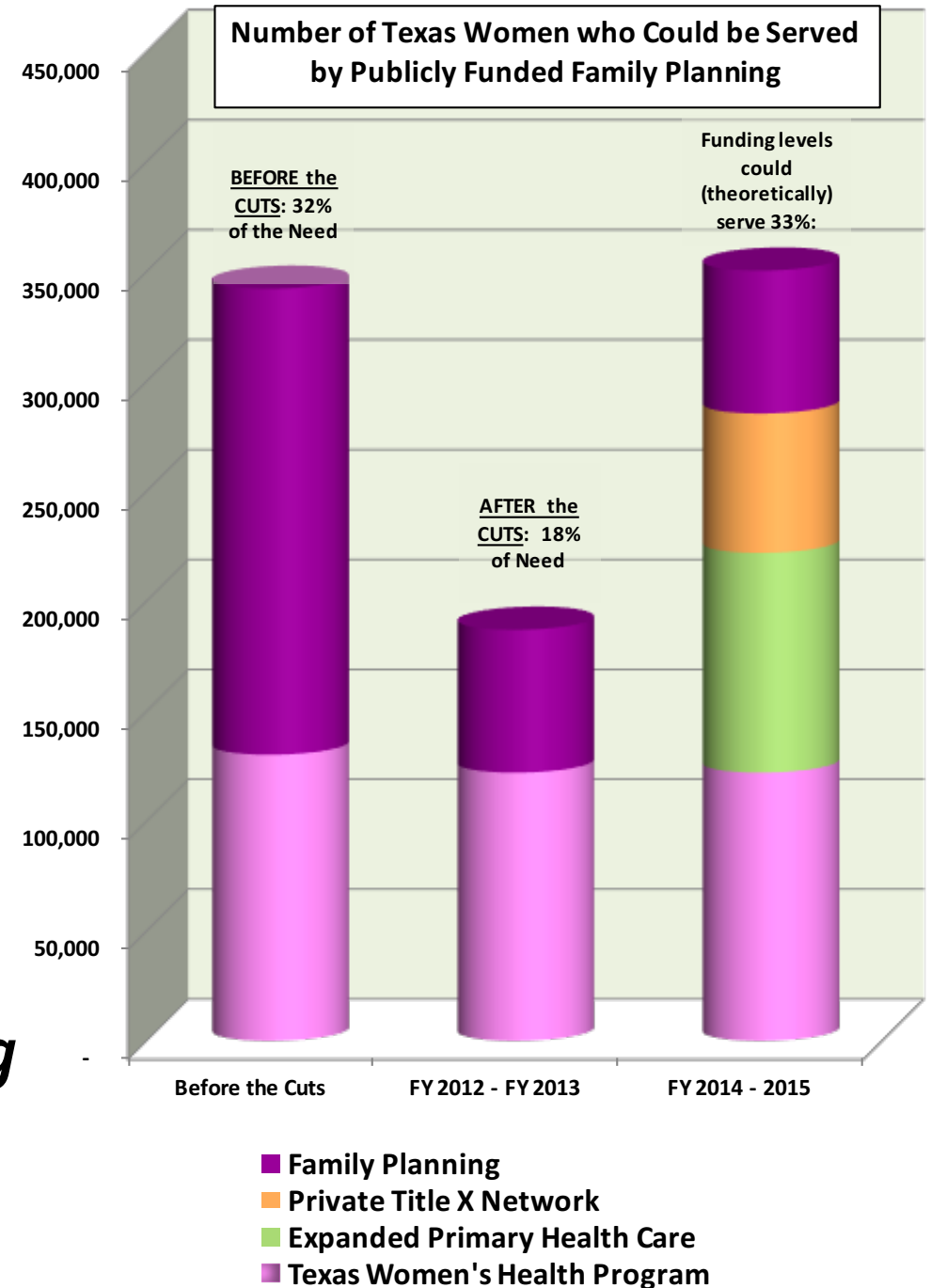


2013

# “Restored” funding for Family Planning

- Continued funding for the [Texas] Women’s Health Program
- Preserved low funding for Family Planning
- Expanded Primary Health Care (estimated 60% for family planning)
- Title X funding moved to a private network

*Bipartisan support for family planning as preventive care*



**2015**

# Additional \$46.5 million for women's health services

Family Planning, Expanded Primary Health Care, and Texas Women's Health Program have been consolidated under Women's Health Services at HHSC

HHSC Strategy	Family Planning	Expanded Primary Health Care	Texas Women's Health Program	"Women's Health Services"	Total
FY 2016-17 (\$Millions/Biennium)	\$41.6	\$100.0	\$69.3	\$50.0	\$260.9
2014-15 (\$Millions/Biennium)	\$43.2	\$100.0	\$71.3	-	\$214.5



2015

# Women's Healthcare Policy Achievements

- \$46.5 million additional for women's health care services
- Establishment of Women's Health Advisory Committee
- Long Acting/Highly Effective Contraceptives:
  - increase access
  - provider education and training

# Looking Ahead: The 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature

- Begins January 10, 2017
- The Health and Human Services Commission's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) Released in September
  - Requests \$4.9 million more for 2018/2019 biennium than 2016/2017
  - \$191.3 million for Healthy Texas Women; \$74.4 million for Family Planning Program
  - Exceptional Item Request for additional \$20 million for Family Planning Program



# Policy Priorities for the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature

**1.**

Ensure funding for women's preventive healthcare, including contraception, can fully meet the growing need among low-income uninsured women

**2.**

Identify areas with a shortage of qualified family planning providers and develop strategies to increase provider participation in the state's women's health programs

**3.**

Ensure women have access to the full range of FDA-approved contraceptives of their choice, including the most effective forms of contraception – implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs)

# Policy Priorities for the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature

**4.**

Increase continuity of care for women by eliminating barriers to preventive healthcare access

**5.**

Maximize the ability of the women's healthcare safety net to reach more women and save Texas taxpayer dollars





# Get Involved!

- Join TWHC newsletter
- Apply for TWHC membership
- Call in/Attend a TWHC meeting in Austin
- Share recommendations/concerns with TWHC

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# Thank You!

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