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

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65 healthcare, advocacy, faith organizations

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

www.TexasWHC.org
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

Can't pay for services: 38%
Don't feel comfortable with healthcare providers: 30%
Can't get time off work/school: 23%
Insurance issues: 20%
No services in community: 15%
No childcare: 11%
No transportation: 10%
Language barriers with healthcare providers: 7%
Don't have partner/family support: 5%

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

“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
### 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HHSC Strategy</th>
<th>Family Planning</th>
<th>Expanded Primary Health Care</th>
<th>Texas Women's Health Program</th>
<th>&quot;Women's Health Services&quot;</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2016-17 ($Millions/Biennium)</td>
<td>$41.6</td>
<td>$100.0</td>
<td>$69.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-15 ($Millions/Biennium)</td>
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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 85th 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 85th 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 85th 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
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• 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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