

# Texas Women's Healthcare in Crisis



## Protect Funding for Texas Women

**Women's preventive care saves lives and money.** In an era when Texas' leaders are looking to constrain Medicaid costs while also promoting healthier mothers and babies, improving preventive healthcare for women is one of the single best strategies for the state.

Access to these services, including contraception, helps women better time and space their pregnancies, which benefits not only women but also Texas Medicaid. Unplanned pregnancies and pregnancies spaced too closely raise the risk of low birth weight and premature birth, which increase Medicaid costs. A full-term baby costs Medicaid an average of \$480, versus an average of \$64,000 for an early preterm baby. Preventive care also is essential to the early detection and treatment of certain cancers, mental illness, and chronic diseases such as diabetes.

**The need for preventive health care and wellness services is massive.** In Texas, nearly 1.3 million low-income women aged 20-44 need access to affordable preventive care. The state has the capacity to reach only about 330,000 women. To fully meet the demand, the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition estimates Texas will need to invest \$265 million per year — more than twice what is currently appropriated.

**It is critical for Texas to maintain and strengthen the state's three essential women's health programs:**

- **The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Family Planning** program provides high-quality preventive care extremely efficiently, with a low cost per woman served.
- **The DSHS Expanded Primary Health Care** program offers preventive and primary care to a broader group of women, including older women.
- **The Texas Women's Health Program (TWHP)** includes private-practice physicians and helps expand the number of women the state can serve with preventive care.

**TWHC urges lawmakers not to make rapid or large changes to these programs, especially since they are in their infant stages.** In 2013, lawmakers expanded the Primary Health Care Program with an array of preventive and primary care services offered to adult uninsured women, necessitating new provider contracts and training. Changes also were made to the TWHP and Family Planning provider networks. As a result, providers need time to adapt before the state can assess whether any further changes should be made, such as consolidation. The Coalition strongly supports efforts to strengthen collaboration across the programs to ensure women can obtain quality services they need regardless of which program is accessible in their community.

**TWHC also recommends careful study of low-income women's access to preventive healthcare services throughout the state.** The Texas Health and Human Services Commission and DSHS have taken important steps to improve outreach and enrollment among eligible women as well as providers. It will be important to evaluate the effectiveness of these activities while also examining the adequacy of the provider network and its capacity for growth.



T E X A S

Women's Healthcare  
COALITION

# Coalition Membership

as of June 30, 2014

Members of the Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition are organizations that endorse the TWHC Principles. By endorsing the Principles, Organizational Members agree to be publicly associated with the coalition.

## Steering Committee Members

Texas Medical Association  
District XI (Texas) American Congress of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Texas Academy of Family Physicians  
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.  
Texas Association of Community Health Centers  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
Women's Health and Family Planning  
Association of Texas  
Healthy Futures of Texas  
Teaching Hospitals of Texas  
Texans Care for Children

## General Members

Texas Medical Association Alliance  
Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Texas Pediatric Society  
Texas Hospital Association  
Texas Nurses Association  
Children's Hospital Association of Texas  
Department of Ob/Gyn of UNTHSC and the  
ForHER Institute  
National Council of Jewish Women—  
Texas State Policy Advocacy Network  
Susan Wolfe and Associates  
Family Health Care, Inc.  
Healthy Futures Alliance  
Texas Health Institute  
Cardea  
Austin Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry  
Center for Community Health, UNTHSC  
Gateway to Care  
Consortium of Texas Certified Nurse Midwives  
University Health System  
San Antonio Metro Health Clinic  
South Texas Family Planning & Health Corp.  
Texas Council on Family Violence  
People's Community Clinic  
St. David's Foundation  
Coalition for Nurses in Advanced Practice  
League of Women Voters of Texas  
Texas Nurse Practitioners  
AWHONN Texas  
SALVERE (Striving to Achieve Literacy  
via Education, Research, and Engagement)  
Amistad Community Health Center  
Legacy Community Health Services  
Generation Covenant Healthcare



Women's Healthcare  
COALITION

For more information, contact  
[info@TexasWHC.org](mailto:info@TexasWHC.org)

2300 W. Commerce St. #203  
San Antonio, TX 78207  
(210) 223-4589

[www.TexasWHC.org](http://www.TexasWHC.org)



The Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition gratefully acknowledges Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc., (MHM) for their support of this report. The findings and conclusions expressed in this report, however, are solely TWHC's, as are any errors or omissions. To learn more about MHM, visit [www.mhm.org](http://www.mhm.org).



Development and leadership of the Texas  
Women's Healthcare Coalition is a project of  
Healthy Futures of Texas