



Maternal and Infant Health Coalition: Policy Preview

January 30, 2023

We envision a Texas in which all children grow up to be healthy, safe, successful, and on a path to fulfill their promise.

Our Focus Areas:

- Maternal and Child Health
- Early Childhood
- Mental Wellbeing
- Child Safety and Protection



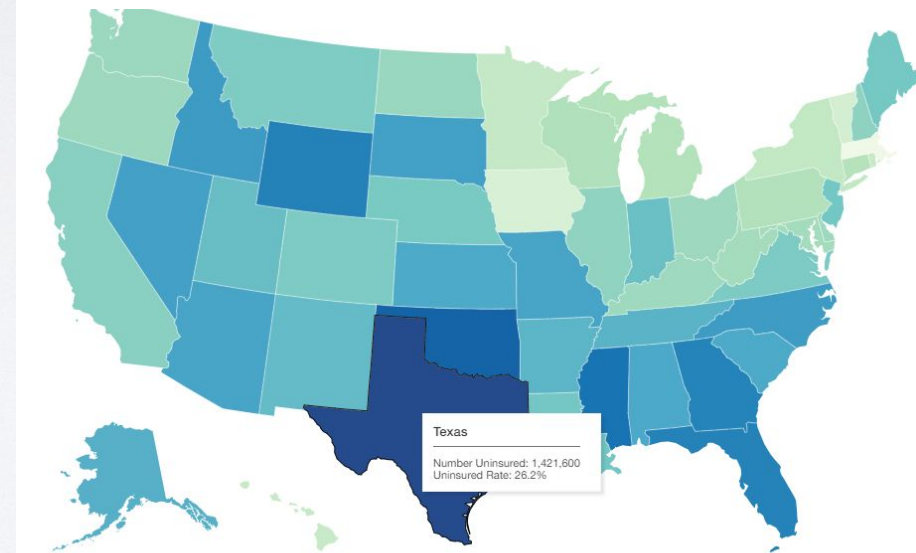
What We'll Cover Today

- Maternal and infant health issues at the Capitol
 - Medicaid postpartum coverage
 - Public Health Emergency and end of Medicaid continuous coverage
 - Access to doulas
 - Access to lactation services
 - Perinatal Psychiatric Access Network
 - Women's health programs
- Ways to get involved

Texas Has Highest Uninsured Rate for Women

- 1 in 4 TX women of childbearing age are uninsured (26%)
- 1.4 million uninsured TX women age 18-44
- Highest rate in the U.S. and twice the national average

Uninsured Rate for Women of Childbearing Age



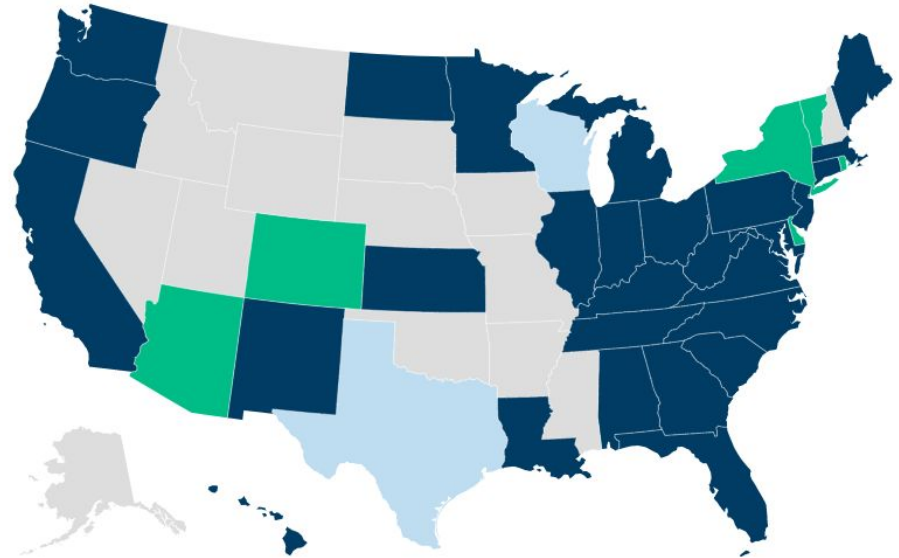
Source: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS).

Medicaid Postpartum Coverage

Last session	HB 133 extended Medicaid coverage to 6 months postpartum
Status	Pending with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)
Medicaid pause during PHE	During the COVID Public Health Emergency, women in Medicaid have been able to keep coverage
This session	12 months postpartum coverage!

Postpartum Coverage Tracker Map

- 12-month extension implemented (29 states including DC)
- Planning to implement a 12-month extension (6 states)
- Limited coverage extension proposed (2 states)



SOURCE: Data KFF analysis of approved and pending 1115 waivers, state plan amendments, and state legislation, as of January 26, 2023 • PNG

Momentum is Building

- In his address to the Legislature this month, Speaker Dade Phelan revealed that health care will be a top priority for the Texas House
 - *“[E]nsuring health coverage for new moms that lasts – not sixty days, not six months but a full year.”*
 - *“[L]et us not forget people who need more than just a job. Even with a vibrant economy, a single parent who can work, afford childcare, healthcare, transportation and housing, is indeed rare.”*

Strategic Messaging

- Important to connect the challenge or problem to the system barrier
- Need more data & education on connections between health coverage, health care & outcomes
- Highlight links between caregivers' limited access to health care and a child's success & healthy development
- Extending Medicaid, not expansion



A healthcare worker in a white coat is examining a baby lying on a table. The worker's hands are visible, holding the baby's hand. The baby is wearing a diaper and is looking towards the right. The background shows a clinical setting with a desk and various items.

Upcoming End of Continuous Coverage in Medicaid

COVID Public Health Emergency

- Medicaid pause since March 2020
- Renewed in 90 day increments
- People enrolled in Medicaid since March 2020 can keep their coverage, including:
 - Pregnant women in Medicaid
 - Women in Healthy Texas Women
 - Teens aging out of Medicaid at 19
- In exchange, states get 6% boost in federal matching funds for Medicaid





Texas Leaders Must Ensure that When "Public Health Emergency" Policies End

- ☑ Kids who are still eligible for Medicaid insurance can stay enrolled and keep seeing their doctor
- ☑ Kids and new moms no longer eligible for Medicaid can smoothly transition to CHIP, Healthy Texas Women, or Marketplace insurance

Recent Changes

- Congressional bill that passed in December 2022 delinks the Medicaid continuous coverage requirement from the public health emergency
- *The continuous coverage protection ends as of March 31, 2023*
- States can take up to a full year to initial renewals and redeterminations
- At least 2.7 million Texans will have to be redetermined eligible
- HHSC has about 400 eligibility worker vacancies, and the processing times for a new application is around 90 days
- Huge task for the state and organizations working with families

Ways to Help

- Utilize your events and venues to raise awareness about the end of continuous coverage on March 31, 2023
- Invest in local organizations that do outreach and application assistance with children and families
- Support health providers that serve pregnant and postpartum Texans
- Educate lawmakers & support state funding to improve technology and address HHSC workforce needs
- New Texas website in development!

Additional Maternal Health Opportunities

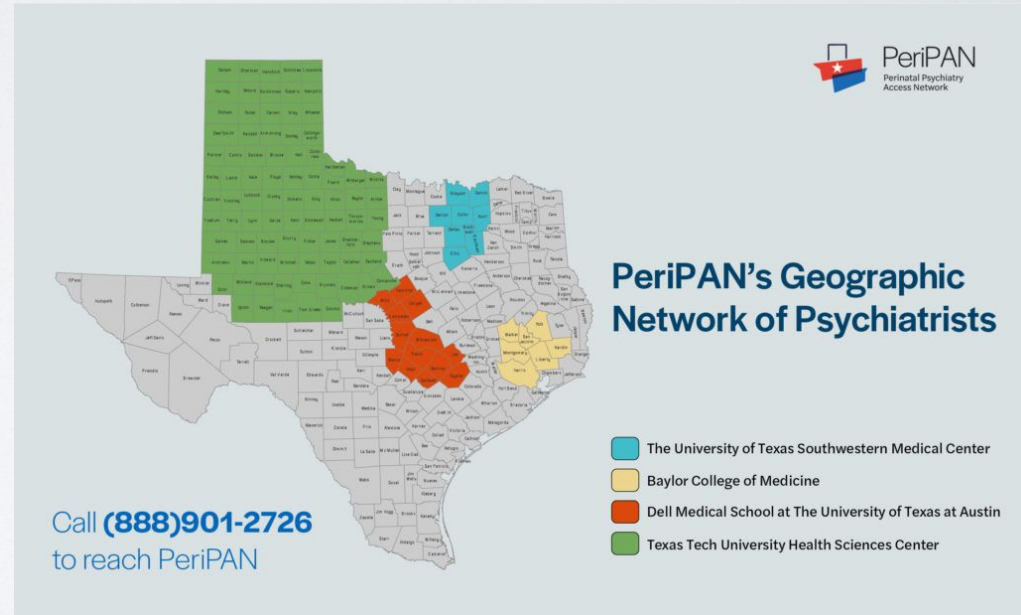
- Doula coverage in Medicaid
 - Over half of states have or are working towards including doulas in Medicaid
- Coverage of [lactation consultation](#) and services in Medicaid



Additional Maternal Health Opportunities

Funding for Perinatal Psychiatric Access Network (PeriPAN)

- PeriPAN is pilot expansion of the Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN), created by the Legislature
- Hotline for clinician-to-clinician consultation for providers serving pregnant women and new mothers experiencing mental health challenges
- Piloted in 4 Texas regions
- Bipartisan support for funding to scale up statewide



Additional Maternal Health Issues

Policy	Notes	Prior Bills
Women's Health Program Funding	Fully fund Healthy Texas Women caseload growth; provide 50% increase in Family Planning Program in FY24 and 100% increase in FY25.	Budget bill
CHIP contraception	Texas is one of just two states in the nation that doesn't cover birth control in CHIP. Adding this would save the state money.	HB 800 (87); HB 835 (88)
12 month birth control	Many states allow women to purchase 12 month supply of birth control such as oral contraceptives, helping to prevent accidental discontinuation.	HB 2651
Maternal mortality data	Current data redaction process for maternal mortality is time consuming and creates delays. Simplifying process could allow faster publication.	HB 136

Stay Connected!

- Contact Diana Forester, Health Policy Director to stay involved in strategy on maternal health during session (dforester@txchildren.org)
- Texas Prenatal to Three Collaborative, <https://texaspn3collaborative.org/>
- Cover Texas Now, <https://covertexasnow.org/>



Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition

PROMOTING ACCESS TO PREVENTIVE
HEALTHCARE FOR ALL TEXAS WOMEN

Advocacy Day
February 23rd, 2023
Austin, Texas





[txchildren.org](https://www.txchildren.org)



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