

# Health Care in Texas

## Too many Texas families lack health insurance

In today's health care market, health insurance promotes access to preventive care, encourages timely diagnosis and treatment, and protects families from medical-based financial hardship. The benefits of coverage are a family affair; children are more likely to be insured if their parents are insured. Furthermore, health insurance coverage for adults has been shown to improve overall family economic security and increase health care access for mothers before, during, and after pregnancy.

### UNINSURED

**671,000**

Texas children (9%) are uninsured - the highest number of any state

Hispanic children are 2x more likely to lack health insurance in Texas as their non-Hispanic peers.

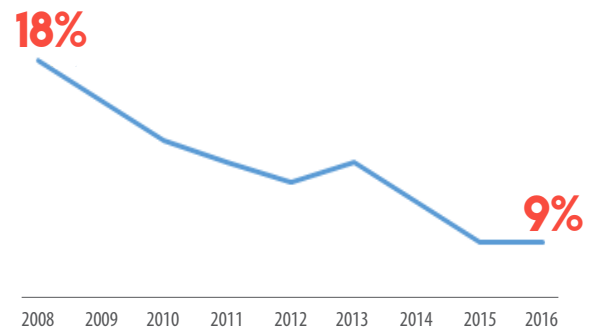
#### Uninsured Adults:

- 23% of Texas parents
- 28% of Texas women of childbearing age

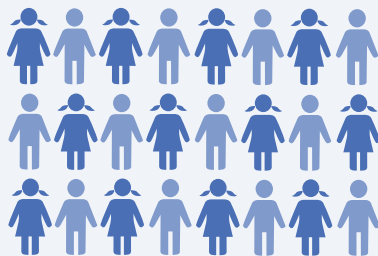
### ON THE RIGHT TRACK

The **child uninsured rate** (ages 0-17) in Texas has improved since the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA, or Obamacare) took effect, but at a percent it's still one of the worst in the country.

More than 3.4 million Texas children, and more than half of Texas' children of color, are covered by Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).



### SOLUTIONS



**Protect Medicaid and CHIP from damaging cuts** or policy changes that reduce coverage for Texans or their ability to access care.

**Protect access to comprehensive and affordable coverage** for Texans who do not have access to job-based coverage, Medicaid, or Medicare.

Learn more at [www.cppp.org](http://www.cppp.org)

## Health Care – Questions for Candidates & Elected Officials

### #TXVotes4Kids

1. Since the passage of the federal Affordable Care Act, the number of uninsured children in Texas has improved significantly. Still, over 671,000 Texas children lack health insurance.

 **What strategies do you support to continue reducing the number of uninsured children in Texas?**

2. While uninsured rates have improved for Texas children, data show that barriers to accessing health insurance remain for children of color (e.g., Hispanic children in Texas are twice as likely to be uninsured as their non-Hispanic peers).

 **What strategies do you support to reduce barriers to health insurance for Texas children and families of color?**

3. In today's health care market, it is nearly impossible to get preventive care without health insurance coverage. Texas Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program provide health insurance coverage to around 45 percent of Texas children each month.

 **How will you ensure Medicaid and CHIP maintain effectiveness and access for Texas kids?**

4. One in five working-age adults in Texas lacks health insurance. When parents have health insurance, families are less likely to experience financial hardship from medical expenses and children are more likely to have health insurance coverage.

 **What steps will you take to ensure Texans of all ages and income levels have access to affordable, quality health insurance?**

5. As one of 17 states that did not accept federal dollars to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, Texas is home to 800,000 adults who fall into the "coverage gap," where income is too low to qualify for health insurance subsidies and too high to qualify for Medicaid.

 **What will you do to address health insurance access for adults who fall into this "coverage gap"?**

6. Texas has one of the worst maternal mortality rates in the country, and Black mothers in Texas are at the highest risk of dying within a year of their child's birth. Mothers and babies need high-quality care before and after birth in order to ensure a healthy start.

 **How will you ensure better care for mothers and babies, giving special focus to groups with greater need?**

7. Research indicates that when parents have health insurance, their children are more likely to be insured and to access primary care. However, many health care providers refuse to accept Medicaid patients due to the low reimbursement rates; and rural health providers have closed at an alarming rate over the last several years because Texas chose not to expand Medicaid.

 **How will you ensure that children have both health insurance and access to care?**