



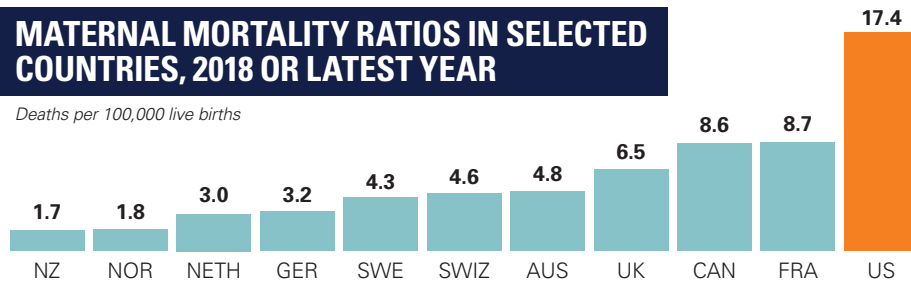
MAKE IT SAFE TO BE A MOM IN TEXAS

Welcoming a new child should be a time of celebration and joy. Yet for too many Texas women, the journey to motherhood carries excessive risk of complications and death.

Compared to other high-income countries, women in the U.S. are more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth-related complications. According to new findings from Texas' panel of maternal health experts, deaths during pregnancy or the year following delivery are too common in our state, with 89% of these maternal deaths classified as preventable.¹ For every maternal death, 50 to 100 additional mothers suffer a severe illness or complication.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIOS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES, 2018 OR LATEST YEAR

Deaths per 100,000 live births



Source: Tikkanen R, et al. (Nov. 2020). [Maternal Mortality and Maternity Care in the United States Compared to 10 Other Developed Countries](#). Commonwealth Fund.

Why Does Comprehensive Coverage Matter?

- Healthy pregnancies begin in the years before pregnancy with early identification, treatment, and management of other health conditions, like diabetes and hypertension.
- Once a woman is pregnant, managing a chronic condition is costlier and more challenging.
- Ongoing care during the year following delivery – also called the “fourth trimester” – is needed for conditions or complications that might arise.
- Chronic diseases and lack of health insurance concentrate in communities of color and low-wealth communities. States that have extended Medicaid to working-age women have seen reductions in maternal complications and deaths. Those states are on their way to correcting inequities in maternal health outcomes by race/ethnicity and economic status.^{2,3,4}

What's Missing in Texas?

- Pregnancy Medicaid's comprehensive coverage ends 60 days postpartum, coinciding with the timeframe in which nearly 1 in 3 maternal deaths occurs.
- The state's women's health programs – Family Planning Program (FPP), Healthy Texas Women (HTW), and the newly-launched HTW Plus – fill important gaps but carry limited benefits. Women with multiple complex conditions will not get the recommended care they need.
- Pre-pandemic, 25% of Texas working-age women lacked health insurance – a number that almost certainly has grown due to pandemic-related job loss.

¹ Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report, Dec. 2020.

² Daw J, Kozhimannil KB, and Admon LK (Sept. 2019). [High Rates of Perinatal Insurance Churn Persist After The ACA](#). Health Affairs.

³ Gordon SH, Sommers BD, Wilson IB, and Trivedi AN. (Jan. 2020). [Effects Of Medicaid Expansion On Postpartum Coverage And Outpatient Utilization](#). Health Affairs, 39(1), 77-84.

⁴ Eliason EL. (Feb. 2020). [Adoption of Medicaid Expansion is Associated with Lower Maternal Mortality](#). Women's Health Issues, 30(3), 147-152.

Ensuring comprehensive health coverage for women of reproductive age is the key step the Texas legislature can – and must – take to improve maternal health.

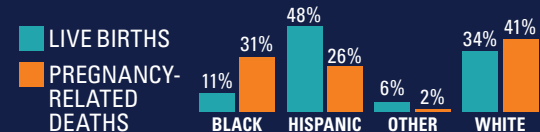
TEXAS MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

2013 | 18.9 deaths per 100,000 live births

2014 | 20.7 deaths per 100,000 live births

2015 | 18.1 deaths per 100,000 live birth

Black women in Texas account for 31% of maternal deaths but only 11% of births.



Source: Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services 2020 Joint Biennial Report

THE TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION RECOMMENDS:

- 1. Extend comprehensive coverage to low-income uninsured working-age adults.**
- 2. Provide 12 months comprehensive postpartum coverage.**
- 3. Maintain robust funding for Texas' women's health programs.**
- 4. Preserve funding for TexasAIM, a state-run collaborative with hospitals, physicians, and nurses to advance the adoption of proven maternal safety protocols.**
- 5. Reduce health inequality by screening, connecting, and coordinating care across medical and social domains throughout a woman's lifespan.**



The Texas Public Health Coalition is a coalition of health professional organizations and health-focused organizations dedicated to disease prevention and health promotion.

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MEMBERS

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| Alzheimer's Association | Texas Association of Community Health Centers |
| American Heart Association | Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services |
| American Lung Association | Texas eHealth Alliance |
| Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas | Texas Health Institute |
| Children's Hospital Association of Texas | Texas Hospital Association |
| The Cooper Institute | Texas Medical Association |
| Harris County Public Health | Texas Nurses Association |
| The Immunization Partnership | Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc. |
| It's Time Texas | Texas Osteopathic Medical Association |
| March of Dimes | Texas Pediatric Society |
| Methodist Healthcare Ministries | Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility |
| Texas Academy of Family Physicians | Texas Public Health Association |
| Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Texas Renal Coalition |
| Texas Academy of Physician Assistants | Texas School Nurses Organization |
| Texas Association of City & County Health Officials | Texas State Alliance of YMCAs |
| | United Ways of Texas |

RESOURCES

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER

MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES