

# Health Care in Dallas County

## Too many families lack health insurance

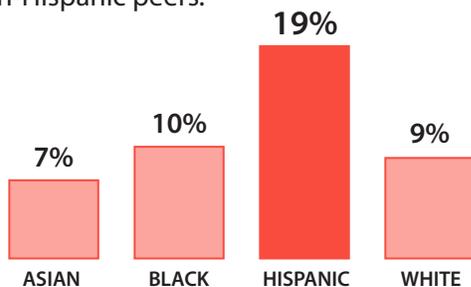
Health insurance promotes access to preventive care, encourages timely diagnosis and treatment, and protects families from financial hardship from medical bills. The benefits of coverage are a family affair; children are more likely to be insured and to get needed care if their parents are insured. Furthermore, 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

**Around 104,000 Dallas County children (ages 0-18) are uninsured.**

The child uninsured rate in Dallas County has improved since the federal Affordable Care Act took effect, but at 14 percent, it's still higher than in Texas overall (11%).

Hispanic children are about twice as likely to lack health insurance in Dallas County as their non-Hispanic peers.



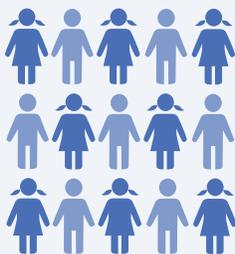
### A FAMILY AFFAIR

Children are more likely to be insured if their parents are insured, but too many Dallas County adults lack access to health insurance, including nearly half of women of childbearing age (15-44).

- **28% of parents are uninsured**
- **47% of women of childbearing age are uninsured**

Supports for uninsured women have had setbacks; enrollment in a major state health program for uninsured women declined by 26 percent between 2011 and 2016 statewide, after Planned Parenthood was excluded from the program.

### SOLUTIONS



- **Protect Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) from damaging cuts** or policy changes that reduce coverage for residents of Dallas County or their ability to access care.
- **Protect and expand access to comprehensive and affordable health insurance coverage.** Expanding access to health insurance coverage to all Texans can improve maternal health, support access to mental health and substance use treatment, enhance financial security for families, and ensure health care access for the whole family.

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

### #TXkidscount

1. Since the passage of the federal Affordable Care Act, the number of uninsured children in Dallas County has improved significantly. Still, approximately 104,000 children in Dallas County lack health insurance.

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

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

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

3. Nearly half of women of childbearing age in Dallas County lack health insurance, and supports for uninsured women have faced setbacks.

 **What steps will you take to help rebuild access to women's health care and family planning services in Dallas County?**

4. One in four parents and half of women of childbearing age in Dallas County lack 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 people of all ages and income levels have access to affordable, quality health insurance?**

5. 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?**

6. Texas' decision not to expand Medicaid has limited access to health insurance. Texans with income too low to qualify for health insurance subsidies and too high to qualify for Medicaid fall into the "coverage gap".

 **What steps will you take to encourage the Texas legislature to close the coverage gap?**