



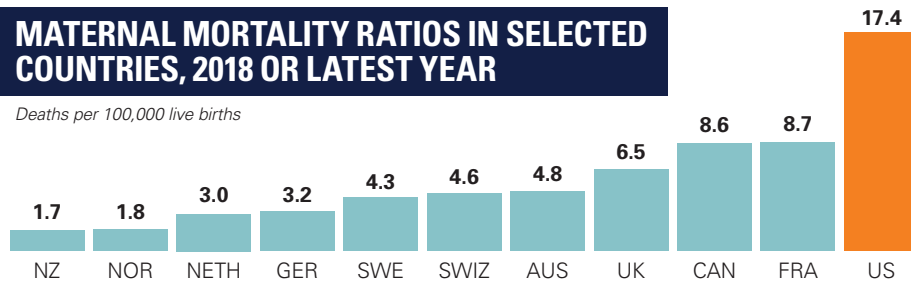
MAKE IT SAFE TO BE A MOM IN TEXAS

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.

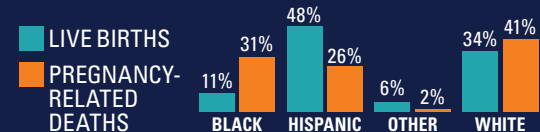
TEXAS MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO

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

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