

ROOT CAUSE OF FOOD INSECURITY:

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

BACKGROUND

Texas has the highest uninsured rate in the nation for infants, children, and adults. Data from the Census Bureau shows that 21.7% of Texas adults aged 19 to 64 went without health insurance in 2023, the worst rate in the nation and nearly double the national rate of 11%.

Children in Texas were also much more likely to go without health insurance than kids in any other state in 2023, even though most uninsured children in Texas are eligible for coverage. The Texas uninsured rate for children is 11.9%, more than twice the national rate of 5.4%.

In addition to our uninsured rates, Texas has the lowest rate of “ex parte” or automatic Medicaid renewals that don’t require action on the beneficiary’s part. This means many Texans lose coverage when it comes time to renew due to administrative obstacles, even when they are still eligible.

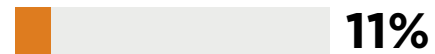
HOW DOES TEXAS COMPARE?

UNINSURED ADULTS AGED 19 TO 64

TEXAS

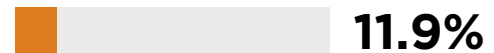


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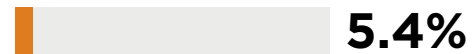


UNINSURED CHILDREN

TEXAS



NATIONAL



HUNGER & HEALTH ARE DEEPLY CONNECTED

Individuals facing food insecurity are more likely to experience adverse health effects and face barriers to accessing necessary health services. Understanding this connection is crucial for developing comprehensive strategies to improve both food security and health care outcomes.

Healthy bodies and minds require nutritious meals at every age. But when people don’t have enough food or have to choose inexpensive foods with low nutritional value, it can seriously impact their health. When someone is sick, having to choose between food and treatment can lead to serious complications. **No Texan should be forced to make this impossible choice.**

HOW WE CAN HELP TEXANS

Families across our state are facing barriers to accessing essential health care services. Addressing this issue through integrated solutions is crucial for improving overall health outcomes and ensuring that Texans receive the comprehensive support they need to thrive. Issues we are prioritizing include:

- Improving Medicaid outreach and enrollment to help eligible children and pregnant women get and stay covered
- Enhancing health coverage and services for kids, moms, and families
- Innovating in Medicaid to meet families where they live, work, and play

Implementing parental notifications for dual eligibility, boosting ex parte / administrative renewal rates, enhancing HHSC’s Community Partner Program, and improving 211 capabilities are just a few of the solutions we have identified to help advance these priorities.