MAKE IT SAFE TO BE A MOM IN TEXAS

Most maternal deaths are preventable.

Childbirth, one of life’s greatest joys, can turn into tragedy when the infant's mother dies. Physicians, hospitals, nurses, and other health care team members are promoting improved safety in labor-and-delivery practices, but more can be done — lives can be saved through courageous action by the Texas Legislature.

50% of all births in Texas were paid by Medicaid in 2016.

53% of unintended pregnancies in Texas

$3.5 BILLION cost to Texas Medicaid for pregnancy- and delivery-related services for mothers and infants in the first year of life.

THE TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH COALITION RECOMMENDS:

1. Pursue a federal waiver to increase access to comprehensive services to women before, during, and after pregnancy, including substance use treatment and behavioral health care. At a minimum, target women with high-risk pregnancies, substance use disorders (SUDs), and unplanned pregnancies.

2. Reduce red tape and payment barriers preventing widespread adoption of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs). Fund LARC availability immediately post-delivery to women enrolled in CHIP-Perinatal.

3. Improve state surveillance, the vital statistics reporting system, and the quality of maternal death records.

4. Increase awareness of the importance of early and timely prenatal and maternal health care and promote community-based efforts. Public health efforts must target at-risk populations.

5. Increase funding for the current SUD programs run by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission including the Substance Use Disorder Services for Pregnant and Postpartum Women.
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 Cancer Society  Texas eHealth Alliance
Cancer Action Network  Texas Health Institute
American Heart Association  Texas Hospital Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas  Texas Medical Association
Children’s Hospital Association of Texas  Texas Nurses Association
The Cooper Institute  Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
Harris County Public Health  Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
The Immunization Partnership  Texas Pediatric Society
March of Dimes  Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
Methodist Healthcare Ministries  Texas Public Health Association
Texas Academy of Family Physicians  Texas Renal Coalition
Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics  Texas School Nurses Organization
Texas Academy of Physician Assistants  Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
Texas Association of City & County Health Officials  United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS  MICHAEL AND SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING  TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER  PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS

REFERENCES