



Improve Maternal Health in Texas

Improve Texas' maternal health by ensuring comprehensive health coverage for pregnant individuals.

The journey to motherhood carries risks from pregnancy complications to death, extending into the first year after birth. Many pregnancy-related deaths occur within the first year following delivery. The 2024 Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee report found 80% of pregnancy-related deaths were preventable.¹

Comprehensive Coverage Matters

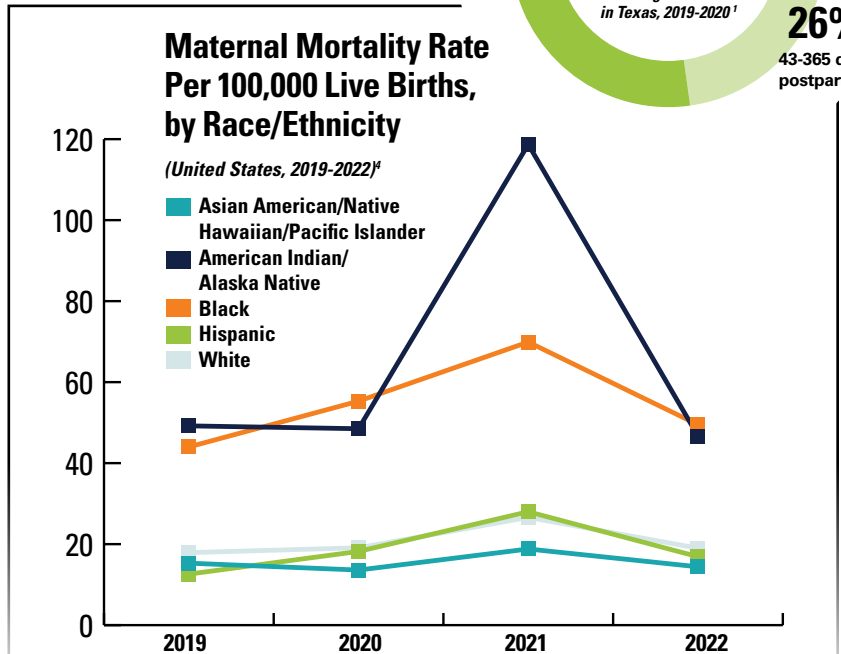
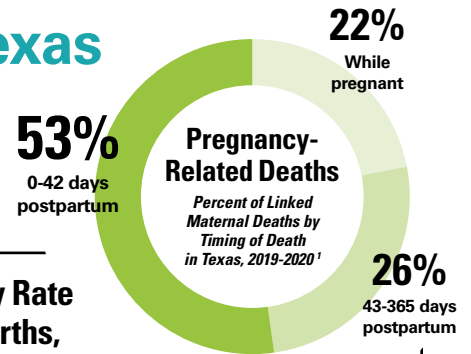
- Healthy pregnancies begin before conception with diagnosis and management of chronic health conditions, such as diabetes and hypertension. Managing chronic conditions becomes more challenging and costly once pregnancy begins.
- States with expanded Medicaid have lower maternal mortality rates.² Expanding Medicaid improves access to preconception care and reduces pregnancy-related deaths.³
- Ongoing care during the year following delivery – beginning with the “fourth trimester” immediately after birth – is critical to address conditions or complications that may arise.

What Texas Lacks

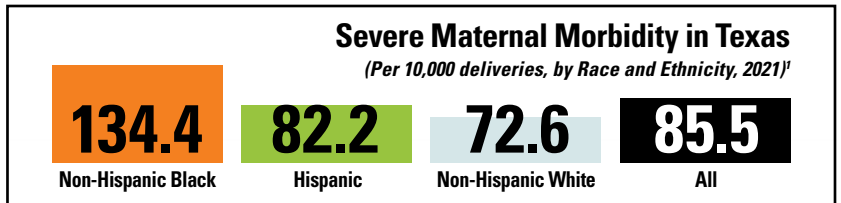
Texas has the highest percentage of uninsured women aged 15-44 (22.1%). State programs like the Family Planning Program, Healthy Texas Women (HTW), and HTW Plus fill important gaps, but offer limited benefits.

Maternal Health Disparities

In 2022, over 800 people died from maternal causes in the United States.⁵ Although maternal mortality rates decreased in 2021-22, Black women still experienced disproportionately higher rates. In 2022, the maternal mortality rate for Black women was over twice the rate for White and Hispanic women and three times the rate for Asian women.



In 2021, Black and American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) women experienced higher maternal mortality because these populations were more affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, compared to other racial/ethnic groups.^{6,7}



The Texas Public Health Coalition Recommends:

1. **Broaden comprehensive coverage** to uninsured, low-income adults aged 19-64.
2. **Maintain robust funding** for women's health programs.
3. **Preserve funding for Texas AIM** (Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health), a state-run quality improvement initiative that provides Texas' birthing hospitals with technical assistance and collaborative learning to implement best practices for safer births and improved maternal health outcomes.
4. **Address health inequities** by assessing unmet medical and environmental needs and referring patients to necessary care and resources.
5. **Fully invest in systems to collect and analyze key maternal and perinatal data** that can timely inform recommendations for improving quality of care.
6. **Support funding for initiatives that address maternal/perinatal mental health**, like PeriPAN and perinatal mental health screenings.
7. **Ensure existing postpartum care resources** are adequately available and can be accessed statewide.

1. Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report 2024. September 2024. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/legislative/2024-Reports/MMMRC-DSHS-Joint-Biennial-Report-2024.pdf>
2. Eliason EL. Adoption of Medicaid Expansion Is Associated with Lower Maternal Mortality. *Womens Health Issues*. 2020 May-Jun;30(3):147-152. doi: 10.1016/j.whi.2020.01.005. Epub 2020 Feb 26. PMID: 32111417.
3. Solomon, Judith. Closing the Coverage Gap Would Improve Black Maternal Health. *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities*. 2021 July 6. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/closing-the-coverage-gap-would-improve-black-maternal-health>.
4. Sara R. Collins et al., 2024 State Scorecard on Women's Health and Reproductive Care (Commonwealth Fund, July 2024). <https://doi.org/10.26099/6gr0-t974>.
5. Hoyert DL. Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2022. *NCHS Health E-Stats*. 2024. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc/152992>.
6. Maternal and Child Health. Texas Department of State Health Services. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/maternal-child-health>
7. Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Review Committee and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report 2022. December 2022. <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/legislative/2022-Reports/2022-MMRC-DSHS-Joint-Biennial-Report.pdf>



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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| ALS Association | Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine | Texas Health Institute |
| Alzheimer's Association | Texas Academy of Family Physicians | Texas Hospital Association |
| American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network | Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics | Texas Medical Association |
| American Heart Association | Texas Academy of Physician Assistants | Texas Nurses Association |
| American Lung Association | Texas Association of City & County Health Officials | Texas Osteopathic Medical Association |
| Children at Risk | Texas Association of Community Health Centers | Texas Pediatric Society |
| Children's Hospital Association of Texas | Texas Chapter of the American College of Physicians Services | Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility |
| Harris County Public Health | Texas Dental Association | Texas Renal Coalition |
| Healthier Texas | | Texas School Nurses Organization |
| March of Dimes | | The Immunization Partnership |
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RESOURCES

BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TEXAS
CPAN & TCHAT

MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL CENTER FOR HEALTHY LIVING
PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY TEXAS
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

TEXAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
TEXAS TOBACCO CONTROL COALITION
TEXAS VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
UT AUSTIN TOBACCO RESEARCH AND EVALUATION TEAM
UT MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER
ZERO PROSTATE CANCER