

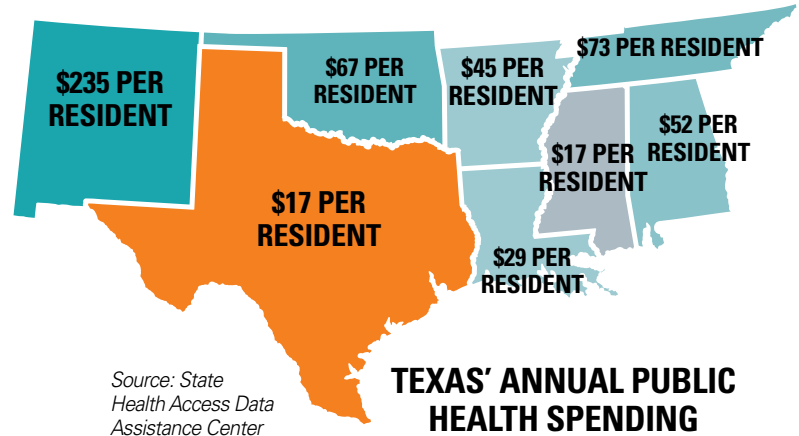


Stop Cuts to Texas' Public Health Infrastructure

Ensure our public health agencies have robust funding and a strong infrastructure to fulfill their lifesaving mission to prevent and eliminate disease.

Texas' low spending on public health is evident in its health outcomes. Texas spends just \$17 per resident on public health – less than half of what several other southern states spend – and ranks 48th in the nation for spending.¹ Neglecting public health over time carries a high, avoidable price tag.

- **Public health saves money and lives.** When the state fails to invest in public health, Texans pay the price. A cut to the public health budget is a disinvestment against the health and well-being of our residents. By not spending money on public health, we only end up paying for it later in higher medical costs.
- **A public health infrastructure consists of a trained workforce, critical information systems, and diligent agencies that are the backbone of every public health service and response.** Studies show that even a \$10 increase in public health funding can result in a 7.4% decrease in infectious disease morbidity.² However, some public health agencies have a difficult time recruiting and retaining staff to support necessary services, such as disease data analysis and clinical program administration.
- **Disasters, disease outbreaks, and pandemics can severely test Texas' public health infrastructure.** Ongoing improvements to the data system and a fully-staffed and trained public health workforce can help ensure a strong public health infrastructure both day-to-day and in times of crisis.



Source: State Health Access Data Assistance Center

TEXAS' ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH SPENDING FALLS FAR BELOW OTHER SOUTHERN STATES'

The Texas Public Health Coalition Recommends:

1. **Maintain agency operations and infrastructure by fully funding the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) base budget.** This includes supporting efforts to recruit, hire, and retain staff, including trained epidemiologists, educators, community health workers, and more. The pillar of a strong health care system is a robust public health infrastructure. Given rising costs, appropriate budget increases are necessary.
2. **Fully fund DSHS' Exceptional Item Requests to:**
 - » Ensure Texas' staffing, epidemiology, and laboratory capacity keeps up with the state's growing population and demand.
 - » Protect Texas babies by fully funding all efforts to curb the congenital syphilis outbreak.
 - » Bolster regional and local public health services to meet the needs of Texas communities.
 - » Reduce the deleterious impact of tobacco-related cancers.
 - » Strengthen the timeliness and quality of maternal and child health data.

TEXAS RANKS LOW ON HEALTH MEASURES COMPARED TO OTHER STATES³



43rd
Public Health
Funding



33rd
Obesity



42nd
Diabetes



31st
Mental
Distress

1. <https://statehealthcompare.shadac.org/rank/117/per-person-state-public-health-funding#2,5,20,26,33,38,44,45/a/76/154/false/lowest>
2. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3234401/>
3. <https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures>



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

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
Methodist Healthcare Ministries		United Ways of Texas

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