

Investing in Texas

Medicaid and Access to Mental Health and Addiction Services

Addiction and Mental Illness in Texas

- Over [3.6 percent](#)¹, or over 1 million people in Texas, have a serious mental illness, and these individuals are among our most vulnerable citizens. The ASPE Office of Disability, Aging and Long-Term Care Policy estimates that nearly 4 million Texans have any type of mental illness or substance use disorder.²
- In 2015, there were over [2,588](#) drug-related deaths in Texas. To prevent these tragedies, Texans need high quality health care and access to affordable services.

Opioid Epidemic and Overdose Deaths (2014)³

State	Drug Overdose Deaths (rate/100,000)	Rx Opioid Use per 1000 population	Buprenorphine use per 1000 population	% Share of Bupe paid by Medicaid
Texas	2,588 (9.4)	573	19	5.7
U.S.	52,404 (16.3)	695	39	24.2

Medicaid is an essential source of funding for behavioral health services in Texas

Texas is not a Medicaid Expansion state, and currently receives a [56.18](#) percent matching rate from the federal government for regular funding for Medicaid services. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, 2016 budget revenues in Texas were lower than projected and are projecting lower revenue collections for 2017.⁴

- [4,338,400](#) Texans are enrolled in Medicaid.⁵

Expanding Medicaid has helped save lives and money

- According to a [March 2015 ASPE Study](#), a Texas study has found that implementation of the Medicaid Expansion would secure \$270 billion for the state and could create significant job growth between 2014 and 2023.
- Over 90 percent of respondents to the December 2016 National Council Medicaid Survey reported that Medicaid Expansion in their state has increased the number of people able to access care. Nearly 70 percent reported an increased ability to access support services that were not covered previously under Medicaid.
- The National Council Survey pointed to the real economic benefits of the Medicaid Expansion, with 33 percent of respondents from 13 states reporting increased hiring of health

¹ State Estimates of Adult Mental Illness from the 2011 and 2012 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health (Feb 2014).

² Benefits of Medicaid Expansion for Behavioral Health. (March 28, 2016). ASPE and SAMHSA.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/190506/BHMedicaidExpansion.pdf>

³ <https://www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/background-information-richard-frank-article>

⁴ [Fiscal Study of the States Fall, 2016](#)

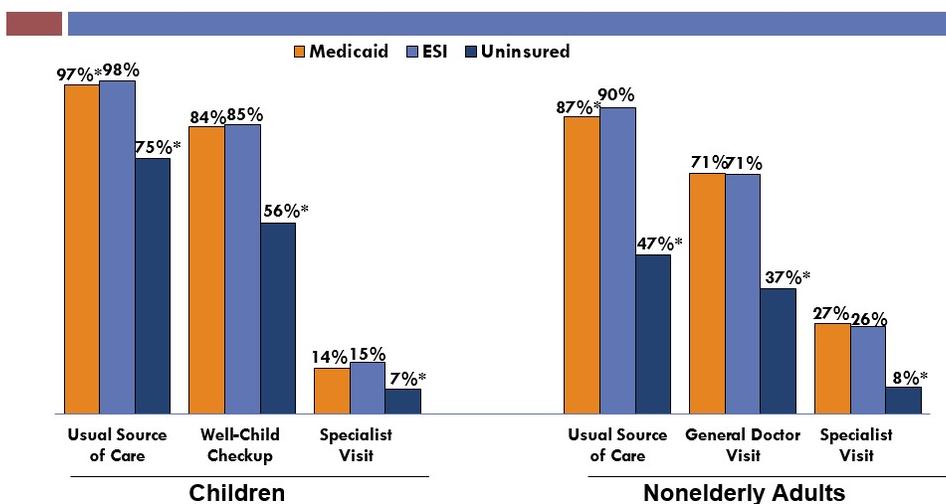
⁵ Kaiser Family Foundation. <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/medicaid-expansion-enrollment/?currentTimeframe=0>

professionals.

Lack of Health Insurance Reduces Access to Care

- Texas has the highest number of uninsured individuals in the country.
- In Arkansas and Kentucky (Medicaid Expansion States), low-income adults had major improvements in their ability to pay for needed prescriptions and medical bills, and people with chronic diseases like diabetes, depression, and asthma reported that they were much more likely to obtain regular care for those conditions in 2014, compared with people in Texas⁶

Medicaid and private insurance provide similar access to care – the uninsured fare far less well.



NOTES: Access measures reflect experience in past 12 months. Respondents who said usual source of care was the emergency room are not counted as having a usual source of care. *Difference from ESI is statistically significant (p < .05).
SOURCE: KCMU analysis of 2014 NHIS data.

“The costs do not go away if you don't fund the service. They show up in uncompensated care, increased costs to the corrections and legal system and increased disruption in the lives of individuals, families and organizations who are interacting with individuals with a mental illness or substance use disorder who are unable to access what they need to live successfully in their community of choice” -- Mental health provider in New Hampshire (National Council Medicaid Survey, 12/2016)

⁶ [Medicaid Expansion in Texas: What's at Stake?](#). The Commonwealth Fund, April 2016