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.

Approximate rate of unintended pregnancies in Texas: 50% of all births in Texas were paid by Medicaid in 2016. 53% of all births in Texas were paid by Medicaid in 2016.

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

source: Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Task Force and Department of State Health Services Joint Biennial Report, September 2018

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.

MEMBERS

- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Cancer Society
- Cancer Action Network
- American Heart Association
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas
- Children’s Hospital Association of Texas
- The Cooper Institute
- Harris County Public Health
- The Immunization Partnership
- March of Dimes
- Methodist Healthcare Ministries
- Texas Academy of Family Physicians
- Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- Texas Academy of Physician Assistants
- Texas Association of City & County Health Officials
- Texas Association of Community Health Centers
- Texas eHealth Alliance
- Texas Health Institute
- Texas Hospital Association
- Texas Medical Association
- Texas Nurses Association
- Texas Oral Health Coalition, Inc.
- Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
- Texas Pediatric Society
- Texas Physicians for Social Responsibility
- Texas Public Health Association
- Texas Renal Coalition
- Texas School Nurses Organization
- Texas State Alliance of YMCAs
- United Ways of Texas

RESOURCES

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

REFERENCES