

Substance Use & Addiction in Texas

Public policies and community solutions to help families

The recent surge in opioid-related addiction and deaths exposed long-standing inadequate access to publicly funded substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs, especially for low-income and uninsured Texans. All Texans living with substance use disorders need access to treatment and recovery supports, regardless of their income.

DEVASTATING IMPACT

OVERDOSE

#1

CAUSE OF DEATH
FOR NEW MOTHERS
IN TEXAS*

**within first year of giving birth*

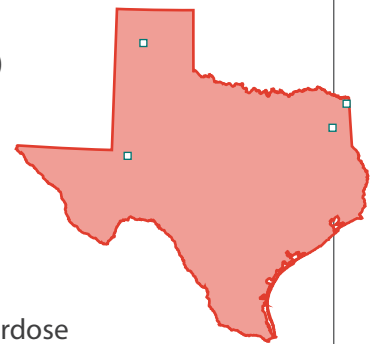
2 out of 3

Child Protective Services removals in Texas involve parental substance use.

TEXAS AND THE NATION

Texas has four of the 25 cities with the worst opioid abuse rates in the U.S.

- Texarkana (10th)
- Amarillo (13th)
- Odessa (15th)
- Longview (17th)



Opioid-involved overdose death rates in Texas have nearly tripled since 1999.

SOLUTIONS



Texas Medicaid can be a critical tool in treating substance use disorder

but only 9 percent of eligible Texans received treatment through Medicaid in 2015.

Recovery solutions with proven results include:


- Peer recovery coaches
- Parent groups
- Recovery homes or recovery schools

#TXVotes4Kids

1. Substance use disorders are not new in Texas; generations of families have dealt with addiction and alcoholism. However, overdose deaths in Texas nearly tripled between 1999 and 2014.

 **What policy changes will you pursue to respond to the recent increase in overdose deaths?**

2. Comprehensive substance use disorder benefits in Medicaid are related to reduced homelessness and arrests and increased employment without raising costs under Medicaid. In 2015, more than 65,000 adults in Texas Medicaid had a diagnosed substance use disorder, but fewer than 6,000 adults received substance use disorder treatment through Medicaid.

 **Would you accept federal Medicaid funds to increase substance use disorder treatment for low-income adult Texans? If not, how will you change or improve access to treatment?**

3. Drug use by parents affects their children. Research shows that positive attachment between a parent and child in the first few years of life is critical for healthy brain and emotional development.

 **What policy solutions will you propose to address the needs of the whole family when a parent is diagnosed with a substance use disorder?**

4. Around two of every three Child Protective Services removal cases in Texas involve parental substance use.

 **What will you do to stem the rising number of children placed in foster care due to parental substance use?**

5. Public safety offices and the courts have a role in fighting illegal substance use, but substance use disorders are also mental health issues and may require treatment.

 **What should be the criminal justice system's role in addressing Texas' substance use crisis? What should be the balance between public investment in incarceration versus treatment?**

6. Texas has a significant problem with maternal mortality. In recent years, overdose has been the leading cause of pregnancy-associated deaths among mothers within two months to one year after giving birth. This highlights the importance of behavioral health services before, during and after pregnancy.

 **How will you improve access to treatment for substance use disorders and mental health to help prevent maternal death?**