

The Affordable Care Act at 10

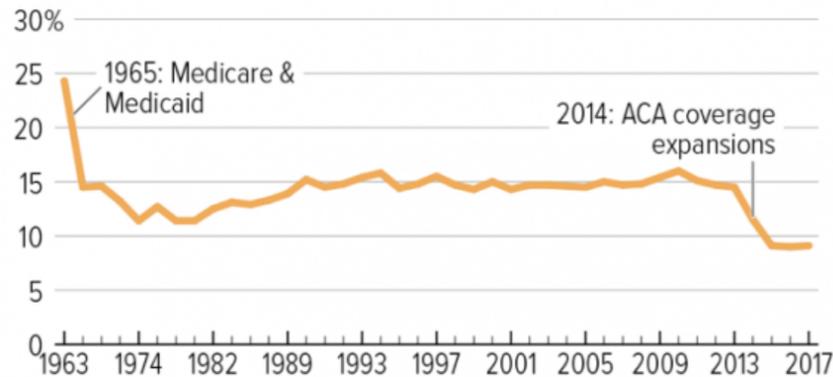
Progress Despite Barriers in Texas

MARCH 2020

Affordable Care Act brings a historic drop in uninsured nationally

Affordable Care Act Coverage Gains Driving Uninsured Rate to Historic Low

Share of population without health insurance

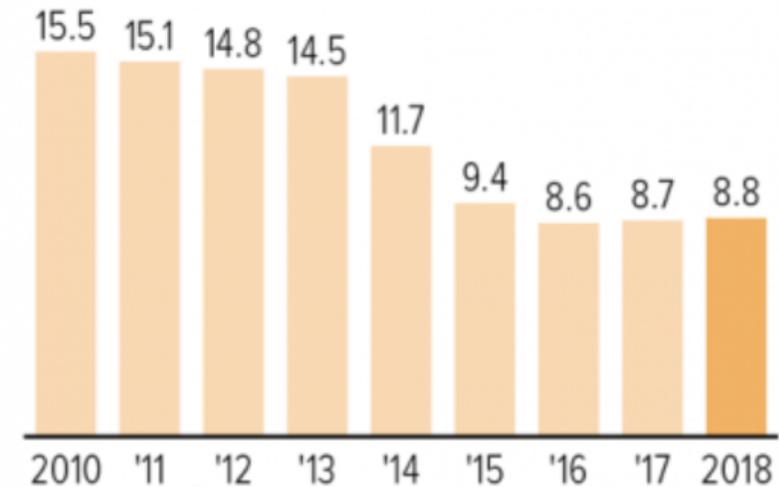


Note: For 1989 and later, data are annual. For prior years, data are generally biannual. Data for 2018 cover the first half of the year.

Source: Council of Economic Advisers analysis of National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and supplemental sources, updated by CBPP from NHIS data

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Uninsured rate, percent

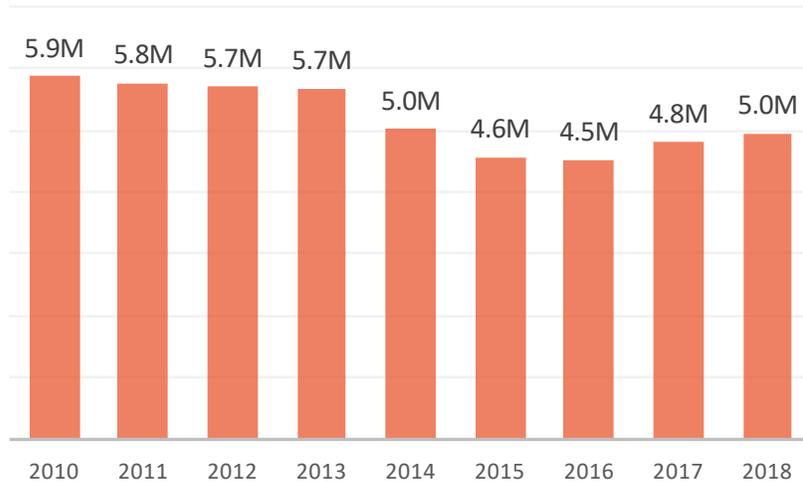


Source: Census Bureau, American Community Survey

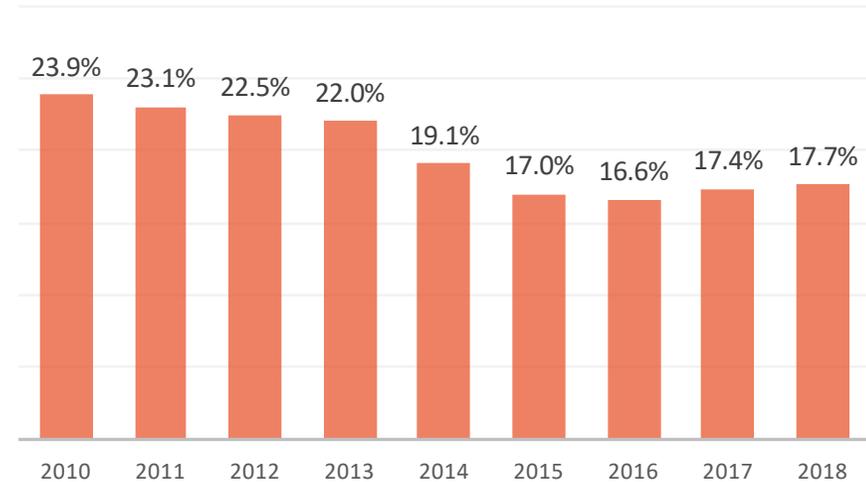
20 million Americans have gained health coverage due to the ACA. [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

ACA brings a historic drop in uninsured in Texas

Texas uninsured population



Texas uninsured rate

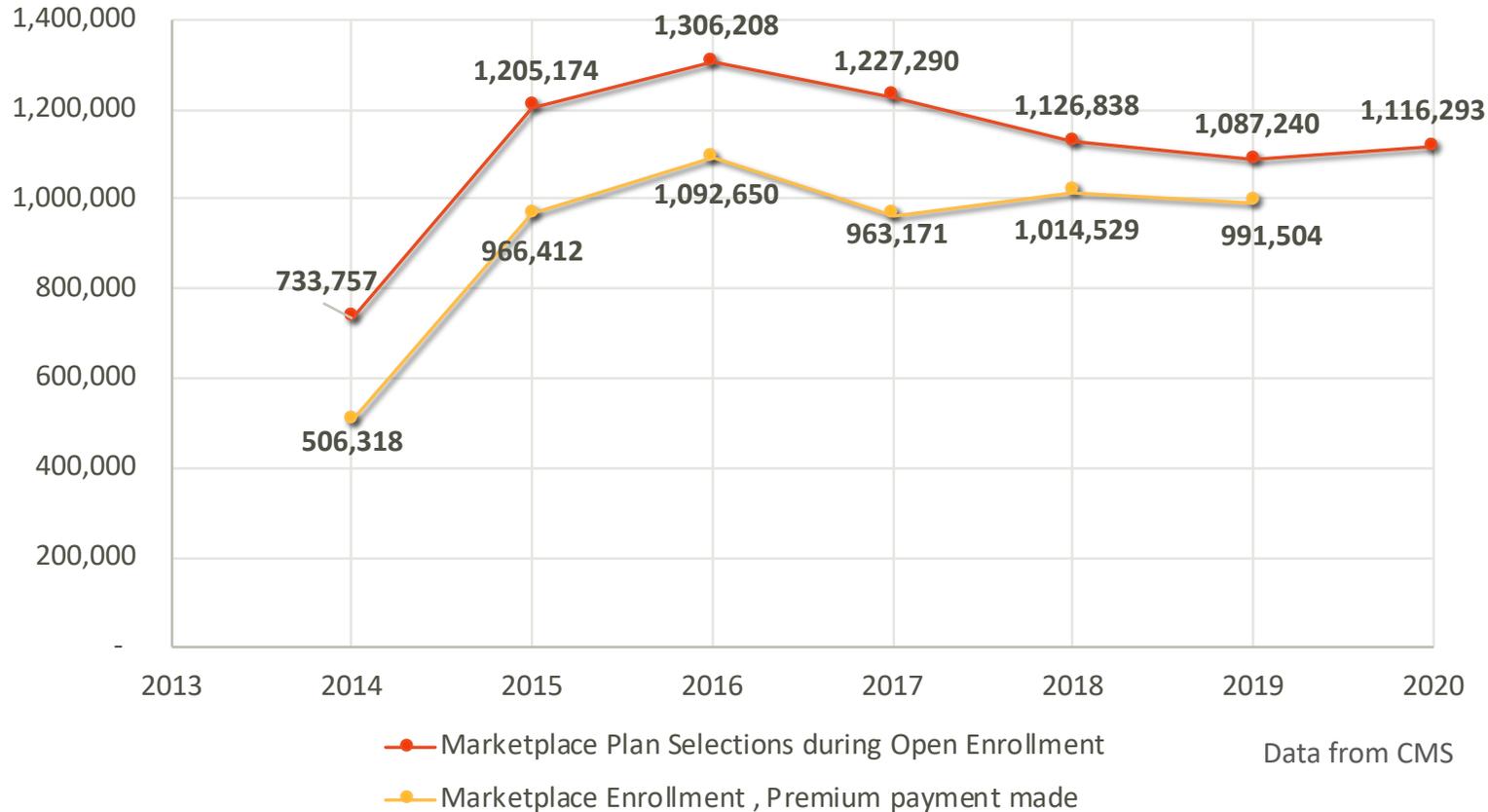


Kaiser Family Foundation estimates based on the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 2010-2018

Despite failing to act on the Medicaid expansion option, Texas has seen historic gains in coverage due to the ACA. Gains likely stem primarily from Marketplace subsidies (started in 2014), prohibition on pre-existing condition discrimination (2014), and the ability for young adults to stay on a parent's plan to age 26 (2011).

Texas ACA Marketplace Enrollment

Texas Marketplace Enrollment, 2014 - 2019

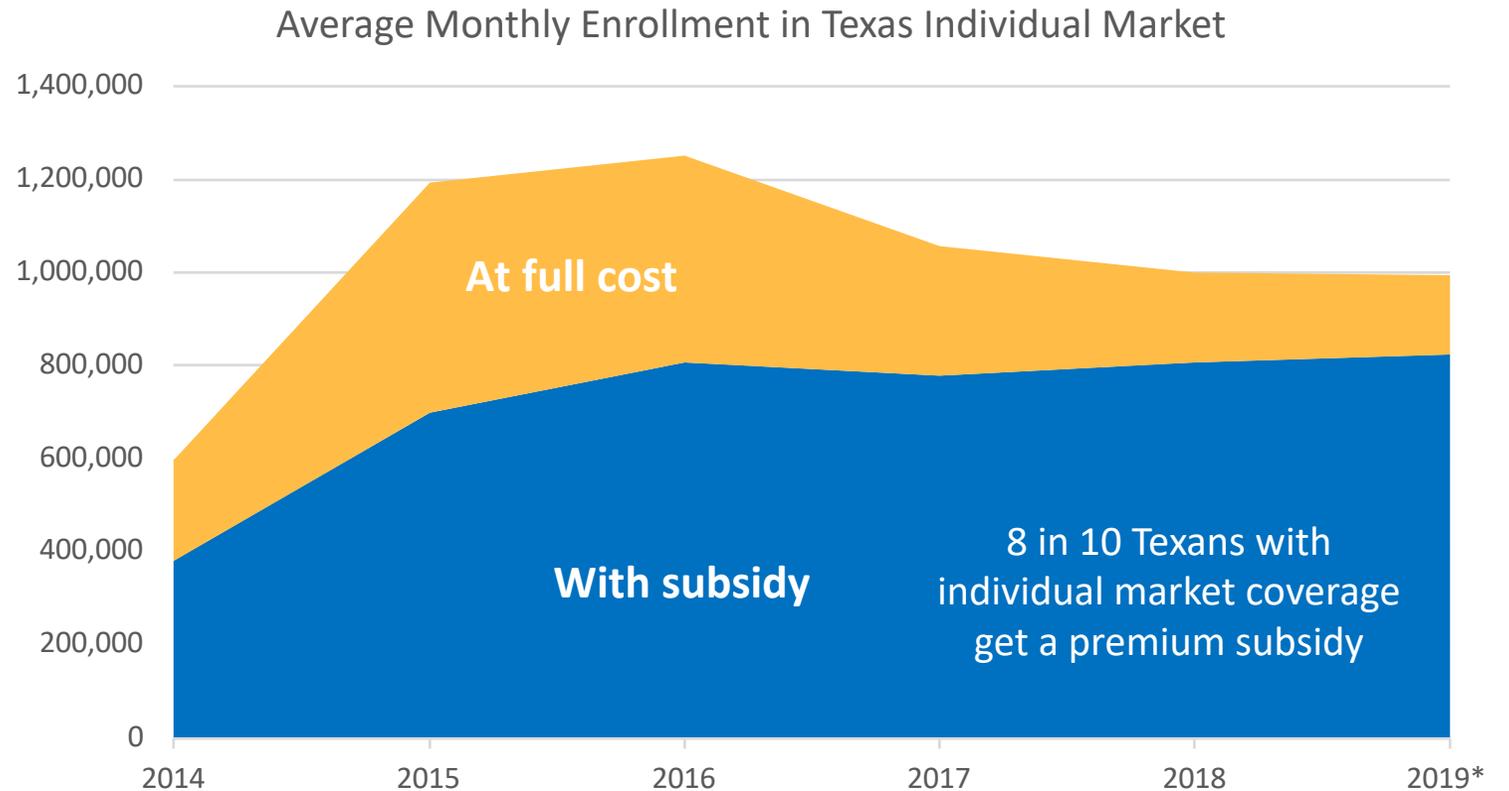


- The number of Texans who selected a Marketplace plan increased 3% in 2020 Open Enrollment
- The number of Texans who both signed up and paid their first month's premium has held pretty steady since 2016

People who aren't offered coverage at work and aren't eligible for Medicaid or Medicare rely on the "individual market" for coverage.

The ACA greatly expanded access to individual market coverage through subsidies for some people with modest incomes and prohibiting insurers from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions.

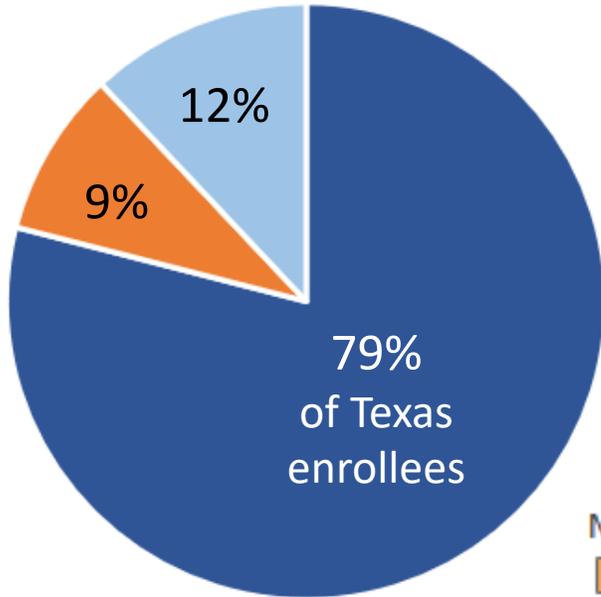
ACA Subsidies Keep Coverage Affordable & Stable



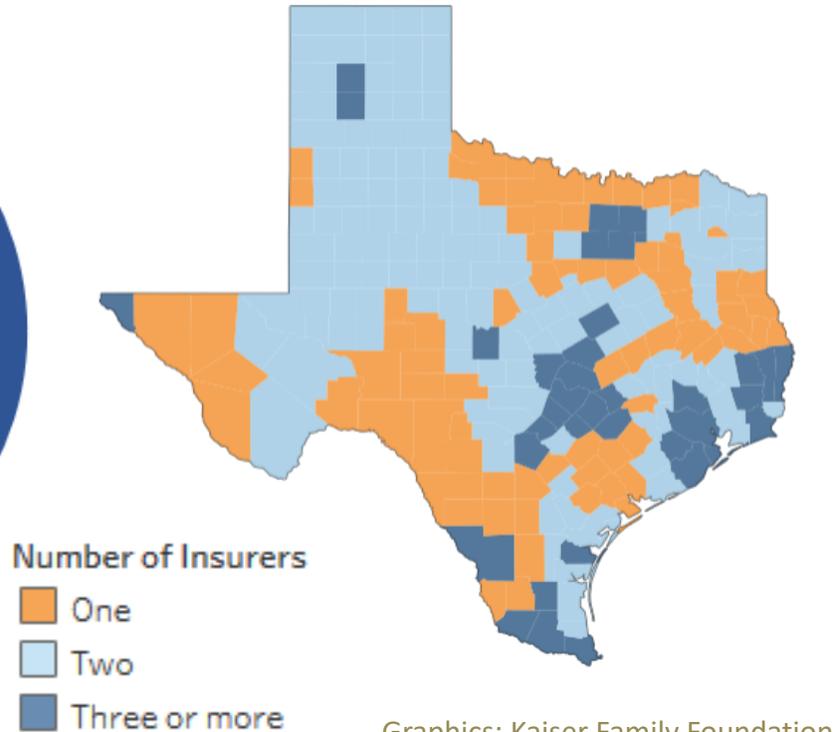
2014 – 2018 data from CMS, Trends in Subsidized and Unsubsidized Enrollment, August 12, 2019. *2019 data is an estimate from Charles Gaba, ACASignUps.com, August 15, 2019, <http://acasignups.net/19/08/15/subsidy-cliff-reckoning-here-six-years-entire-indy-market-one-graph>. Full cost coverage includes both in and outside of ACA Marketplace

2020 ACA Health Insurance Marketplace in Texas

Number of insurer options for enrollees



Number of insurers by county



- 79% of Texan Marketplace enrollees have 3 or more insurers to choose from
- 9% of Texas enrollees have only 1 insurer available
- 8 insurers in 2020 Texas Marketplace
- 5 of 8 Texas Marketplace insurers expanded into new counties for 2020

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, Insurer Participation on ACA Marketplaces, 2014-2020, November 2019, <https://www.kff.org/private-insurance/issue-brief/insurer-participation-on-aca-marketplaces-2014-2020/>

ACA has improved access to care and financial security nationally

Growing evidence shows that, nationally, coverage gains under the ACA are translating into improvements in access to care and financial security.

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Between 2010 and 2018 the share of non-elderly adults:



With a problem paying a medical bill fell:

-17%



Who didn't fill a prescription fell:

-27%



Who skipped a test or treatment fell:

-24%



Who didn't visit provider when needing care fell:

-19%

Source: Commonwealth Fund, Biennial Health Survey

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ACA has strong protections for people with pre-existing conditions

ACA pre-existing condition protections include:

1. You can't be denied coverage
2. You can't be charged more
3. Policies can't exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions
4. No lifetime or annual limits
5. Policies sold to individuals & small employers must have comprehensive coverage, so insurance covers care you'll need

None of these ACA protections are guaranteed in Texas state law

Pre-existing conditions are common:

28%

of non-elderly Texas adults have a **pre-existing condition** that would have resulted in a denial of individual market coverage prior to the ACA



45%

of families nationwide include a non-elderly adult with such a **pre-existing condition**



Graphics and data: [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

The ACA improved health coverage for Texans

COVERAGE YOU BUY ON YOUR OWN, 1.6M TEXANS

- Can no longer be denied coverage, charged more, or face waiting periods due to a pre-existing condition
- Preventive services – like flu shots, mammograms and other cancer screenings, and contraception – at no out-of-pocket cost to patients
- No lifetime or annual caps on coverage
- Coverage of Essential Health Benefits” – like mental health treatment, prescription drugs, and maternity
- Insurers can cancel your coverage after you get sick
- Women can’t be charged more than men and limits on premium increases as you age
- Financial help to make Marketplace coverage affordable for people with low and moderate incomes

JOB-BASED COVERAGE, 13.2M TEXANS

- Preventive services – like flu shots, mammograms and other cancer screenings, and contraception – at no out-of-pocket cost to patients.
- No more waiting periods for coverage of pre-existing conditions
- No lifetime or annual caps on coverage
- Young adults can stay on parent’s plan to age 26

MEDICARE, 3M TEXANS

- Closed the “Part D donut hole,” saving seniors money on prescription drugs
- Preventive services and annual check-up with no out-of-pocket cost to patients
- Strengthened Medicare’s financial status

By the numbers: ACA benefits for Texans

- More than [1-in-4 Texans](#) has a **pre-existing condition** – like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and asthma. Under the Affordable Care Act, they are assured that they will not be denied coverage, charged more, or face waiting periods due to something in their medical history.
- [10.3 million Texans](#), most of whom have job-based insurance, gained access to **preventive services** – like flu shots, mammograms and other cancer screenings, and contraception – at no out-of-pocket cost to patients.
- Insurance companies can no longer place **lifetime or annual caps** on coverage. [7.5 million](#) Texans had insurance with a lifetime cap before the ACA.
- [205,000 young adults](#) in Texas gained coverage by being able to **stay on a parent's plan** to age 26.

Sources linked

By the numbers: ACA benefits for Texans

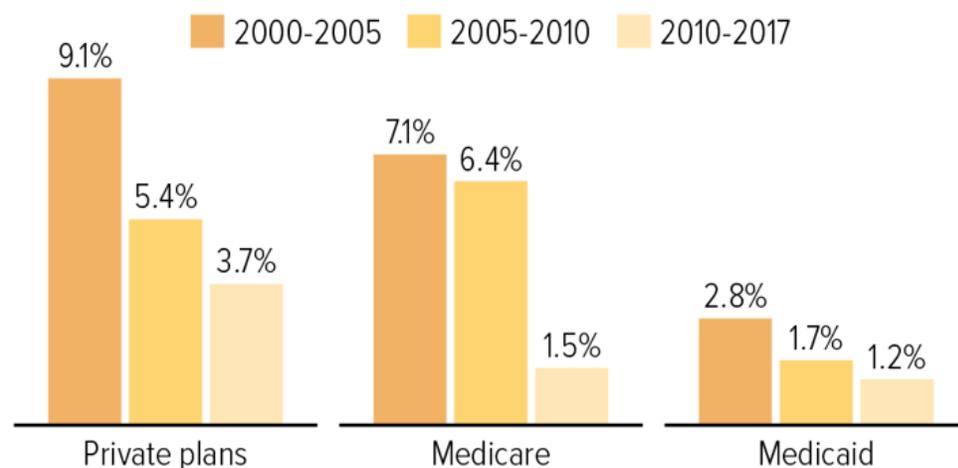
- Seniors in Texas have saved money on **prescription drugs** because the ACA closed the Medicare “donut hole.” In Texas, [333,500 seniors](#) saved money on drugs in 2016, and from 2010-2016, Texans in Medicare saved \$1.8 billion.
- Coverage sold to individuals and small employers must have “**Essential Health Benefits**” – like mental health treatment, prescription drugs, and maternity. [Many pre-ACA individual market plans](#) had skimpy or no coverage of these benefits. [No plans](#) in the pre-ACA, Texas individual market included maternity.
- **Federal funding** for affordable coverage in Texas has increased by about [\\$6.4 billion/year](#). Most of that, about [\\$5 billion/year](#), is the investment of federal **Marketplace subsidies** that connect roughly 1 million low- and moderate-income Texans to coverage.

Sources linked

Health care costs and premiums for job-based coverage have grown slower following ACA

Health Care Cost Growth Has Slowed Since 2010, Due Partly to Affordable Care Act Reforms

Average annual growth in per-enrollee spending



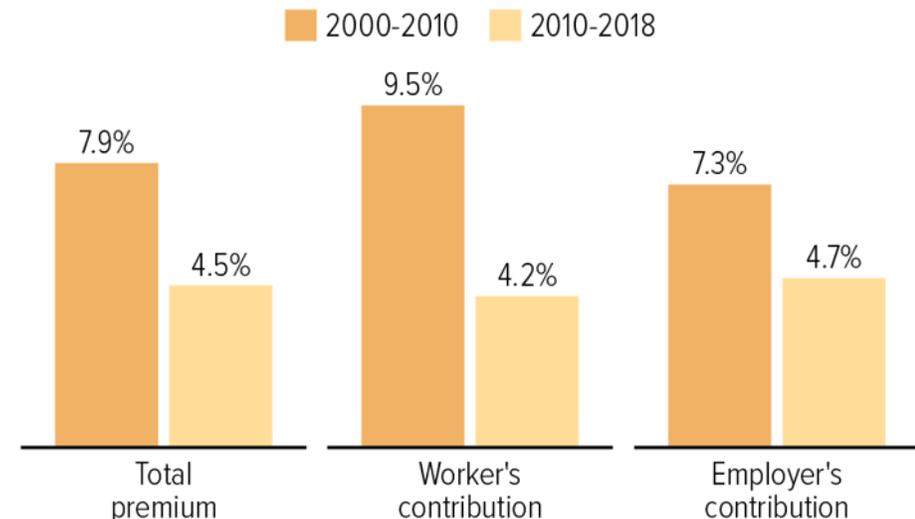
Note: The Affordable Care Act was enacted in 2010.

Source: National Health Expenditure Accounts

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Premium Growth Has Slowed for Employer-Provided Family Health Coverage

Average annual growth



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation 2018 Employer Health Benefits Survey

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[Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](https://www.cbpp.org/)

National polling has consistently found strong public support for major ACA provisions

KFF

Percent who say it is very or somewhat important that these parts of the ACA are kept in place:

Prohibits private health insurance companies from denying coverage because of a pre-existing medical condition	90%
Requires private health insurance companies to cover the cost for most preventive services	89%
Prohibits private health insurance companies from denying coverage to pregnant women	88%
Prohibits private health insurance companies from charging sick people higher premiums than healthy people	87%
Gives states the option of expanding their Medicaid programs to cover more low-income, uninsured adults	87%
Provides financial help to low- and moderate-income Americans who don't get insurance through their jobs to help them purchase coverage	85%
Prohibits private health insurance companies from setting a dollar limit on how much they will spend on your coverage during your lifetime	85%
Prohibits private health insurance companies from setting a dollar limit on how much they will spend on your coverage each year	85%
Allows young adults to stay on their parents' insurance plans until age 26	78%

Barriers to Further Progress in Texas

Texas' Health Care Repeal Lawsuit Would Harm Texans

If courts strike down the ACA:

- [1.7 million Texans](#) and 20 million Americans would **lose their health care coverage**.
- People with a **pre-existing conditions** will lose ACA protections
- Insurers do not have to cover “**Essential Health Benefits**” like mental health, Rx and maternity and can impose **lifetime limits**
- Texans lose a **\$5 billion/year investment of federal Marketplace subsidies** that connect nearly 1 million low- and moderate-income Texans to coverage (\$55B/year nationally)

More at [CPPP blog](#)

Lawsuit stands in stark contrast with what Texans actually want:

- **88%** of Texans support requirements to cover pre-existing conditions
- **85%** of Texans think increasing access to health insurance should be a “top priority” or “important” for the Texas Legislature

Texas is one of just 14 states that has failed to act on the ACA option to expand Medicaid

1.5 million

uninsured adults in Texas, 30% of our uninsured population, could get coverage through Medicaid expansion

[Kaiser Family Foundation](#)

64%

of Texans support Medicaid expansion

[Episcopal Health Foundation](#),
March 2019

Studies find Medicaid expansion leads to

Increases in:

- People getting regular check-ups 
- Prescriptions filled for heart disease and diabetes 
- Early-stage cancer diagnoses 
- People getting surgical care consistent with clinical guidelines 

Decreases in:

- People skipping medications due to cost 
- One-year mortality among patients diagnosed with end-stage renal disease 
- People screening positive for depression 
- People without a personal physician or usual source of care 

Source: Ghosh et al. 2019, Loehrer et al. 2018, Miller et al. 2019, Sommers et al. 2016, Soni et al. 2017, Swaminathan et al. 2018

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<https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/10-2-18health.pdf>

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where everyone is healthy,
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