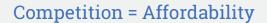
# Individual Health Coverage is Getting More Affordable in Texas

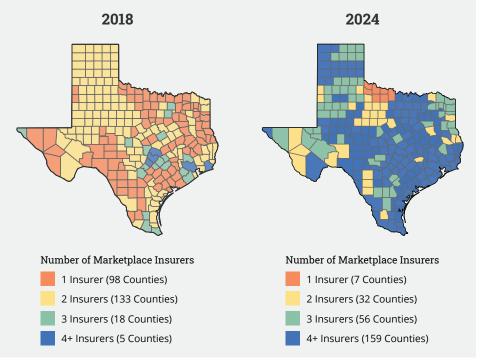


While most Texans are covered through their employer, millions of Texas' entrepreneurs, small business owners, and others look for health insurance coverage on their own. That's where the Affordable Care Act's "individual market" kicks in, and in Texas, it's stronger than ever.



Texans and their families have increasingly more affordable insurance options to pick from.

- Texas leads all states with 15 marketplace health insurers, up from just 8 in 2020.
- 90%+ Texans have a choice of plans from 3 or more health insurers. That's compared to under 60% in 2018.
- Competition drives down costs:
  Prices for health care services
  increased 14% between 2017 and 2021
  but competition kept premiums flat.



Record Breaking 3.3 Million Texans with Marketplace Coverage Uninsured Rate Down 33% Since 2009

Premium Subsidies for

Individual Market Plans

## What's Driving the Increase?

It's all about affordability. Enhanced subsidies introduced two years ago have drastically reduced the cost of coverage.

- Last year, over 90% of Texans received financial assistance, with 60% paying \$10 or less per month for insurance.
- For 2024, 80% of shoppers were offered plans at \$10 or less per month.
- Enhanced subsidies mean discounts aren't just for low-income Texans.
- 47% of the uninsured qualify for subsidies but aren't enrolled.

### Old Subsidy Rules

Subsidies stopped at 400% of the poverty line (\$58,320 for an individual).

#### **New Subsidy Rules**

No one pays more than 8.5% of their income for health insurance, regardless of income.



Coverage 91%

**Full Price** 

Coverage 9%

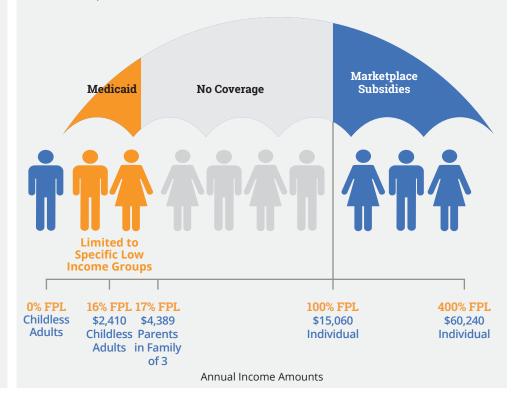
## The Marketplace: How it Works for Texans

## **Essential Health Benefits Means** Coverage You Can Count On

- Emergency Care
- Prescription Drugs
- Hospitalization
- Outpatient Care
- Mental Health Needs
- · Maternity Care and **Breastfeeding Help**
- Birth Control
- Preventive Care & Screenings
- Lab and Imaging Services
- Pediatric Care including **Dental and Vision**
- · Rehabilitative and Habilitative Services

## **Understanding the Coverage Gap**

Texas is one of 10 states that chooses not to expand Medicaid coverage as allowed by the Affordable Care Act. That means Texas has a coverage gap as those affected families also do not qualify for subsidized coverage in the marketplace.



## Healthcare.gov: Home of the **Texas Marketplace**

States have the option to use the federal marketplace or establish and run a state version. Texas and 31 other states rely on healthcare.gov to:



- · Determine income-based eligibility.
- Offer options of different plans for Texans to choose from.
- · Allow shoppers to easily compare plans and get detailed information.
- Collect a 1.8% user fee (down from 3.5%) from insurers to cover the cost of running the marketplace.

### **Pre-existing Conditions Protected**

Prior to the ACA, 27% OF **Texans had pre-existing** conditions that could cause them to be denied insurance. Coverage through the marketplace:



- Protects you from denials for pre-existing conditions.
- Costs the same regardless of your health status.
- · Comes with protections like no caps on your benefits.
- Guarantees you the right to buy a health plan.









