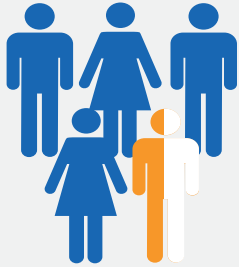
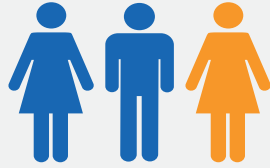


Closing the Gaps: Medicaid Mental Health Coverage

Texas Medicaid doesn't cover the full range of mental health care services that employers and commercial insurers offer families, leaving millions—especially children—without the help they need.



1 in 5 adults have a mental illness but only half get treatment.



1 in 3 Texans on Medicaid live with a mental health or substance abuse problem.



A quarter of school students have seriously considered suicide within the past year



Today



10 years ago

Mental health ER visits among kids have **doubled over the past decade**

Texas Medicaid Mental Health Coverage Gap

Texas Medicaid only covers two ends of the spectrum: counseling and psychiatric medications or inpatient hospital care. But Medicaid lacks coverage for services in between that keep kids out of foster care, help avoid crisis and hospitalization, and save state funds.

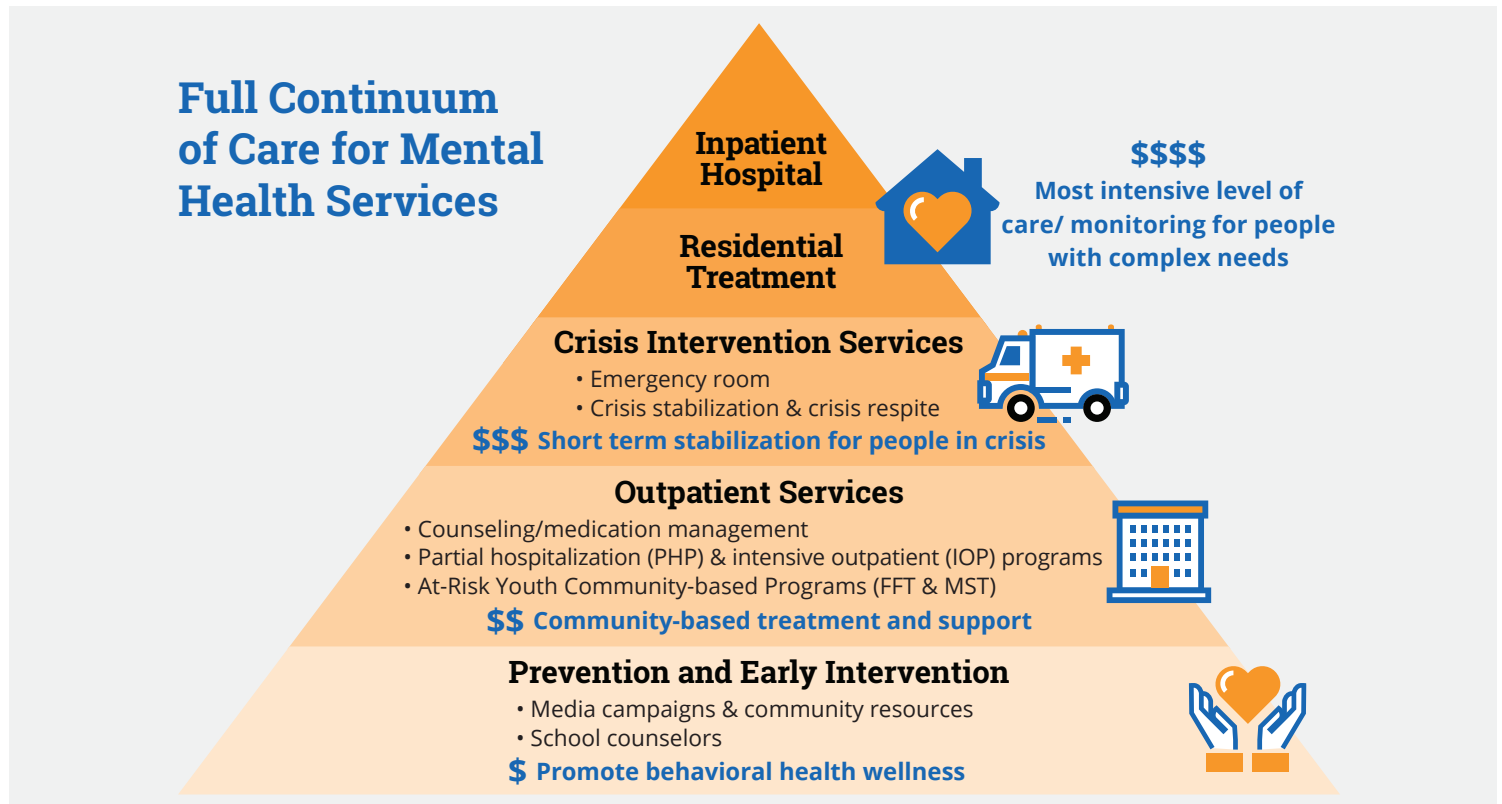


- ❖ **Intensive Outpatient Care:** Texas Medicaid lacks coverage for intensive facility or clinic-based mental health care which help patients either “step up” to, or “step down” from an inpatient hospital stay and can even prevent crisis or hospitalization (IOP & PHP).
- ❖ **At-Risk Youth Community-Based Programs:** There is no comprehensive coverage for intensive community-based care for youth involved with or at risk of entering the juvenile justice system, meaning youth do not have access to these high quality evidence based and cost effective programs (FFT & MST).
- ❖ **Crisis Intervention Services:** Comprehensive crisis services, which are crucial for immediate support and the right level of care, are not covered.
- ❖ **Residential Psychiatric Care:** Access to non hospital psychiatric residential treatment for youth is severely limited and is only available to children in foster care.
- ❖ **Extended Inpatient Care:** Medicaid only covers 15 days of adult inpatient hospital psychiatric services.

The Result: These gaps in coverage leave vulnerable families without the support they need and in some cases force heart-wrenching decisions, like placing children in foster care in order to access essential services.

Closing the Gaps: Medicaid Mental Health Coverage

Medicaid & CHIP cover 4 million Texans, including half of Texas kids. Closing gaps in covered mental health services will improve access for vulnerable Texans by making the same full continuum of care available to privately insured Texans. State estimates show that getting the right care at the right time through these added services creates taxpayer savings.



Five Key Steps to Close Medicaid Mental Health Gaps:

- 1 Create coverage for “step-down” services** like intensive outpatient and partial hospitalization programs (IOP & PHP) to prevent costly hospital stays and allow people to stay in their community.
- 2 Cover evidence based and cost effective services for at-risk youth** like functional family therapy (FFT) and multisystemic therapy (MST).
- 3 Add comprehensive crisis intervention services** as Medicaid benefits including crisis stabilization and crisis respite to provide families with in-home and out-of-home support.
- 4 Provide psychiatric residential treatment for youth** by aligning licensure with federal requirements and creating a covered Medicaid benefit.
- 5 Expand coverage for psychiatric hospital stays** with a state Medicaid waiver to the Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion to allow hospital stays more than 15 days.

The bottom line:

Comprehensive Medicaid mental health coverage will help families and children get the care they need, when and where they need it, and prevent more intensive, costly hospitalizations.