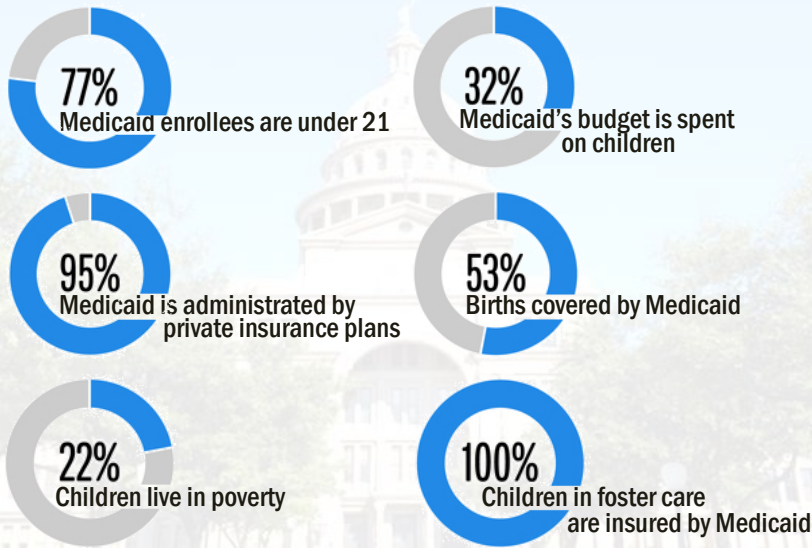




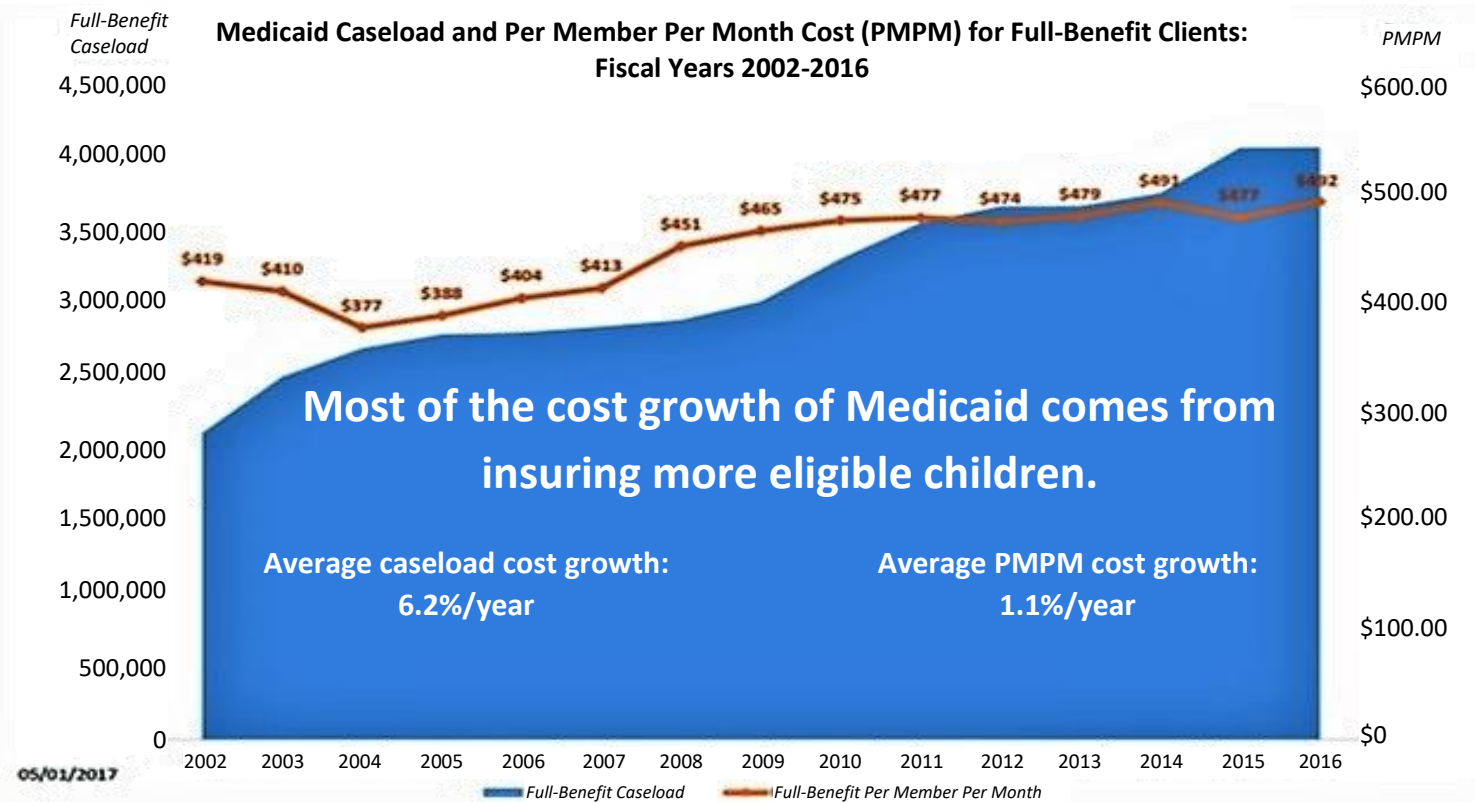
The Value of Texas Medicaid to Children

Medicaid is a critical health care program serving more than 3 million low-income children and children with special health care needs.

Texas Medicaid by the Numbers



- Texas' child uninsured rate dropped from 25% in 1997 to 10% in 2016 – in large part due to Medicaid.
- Medicaid provides children access to primary and specialty care, including mental health, dental and vision. Keeping children healthy fosters better school performance and attendance.
- Childhood Medicaid coverage reduces adult rates of chronic disease and disability while increasing future employment.
- People who were eligible for Medicaid as children earned higher wages and paid higher federal taxes than their peers who were not eligible.
- Texas Medicaid operates through a managed care system which promotes both an efficient use of resources and value over volume.



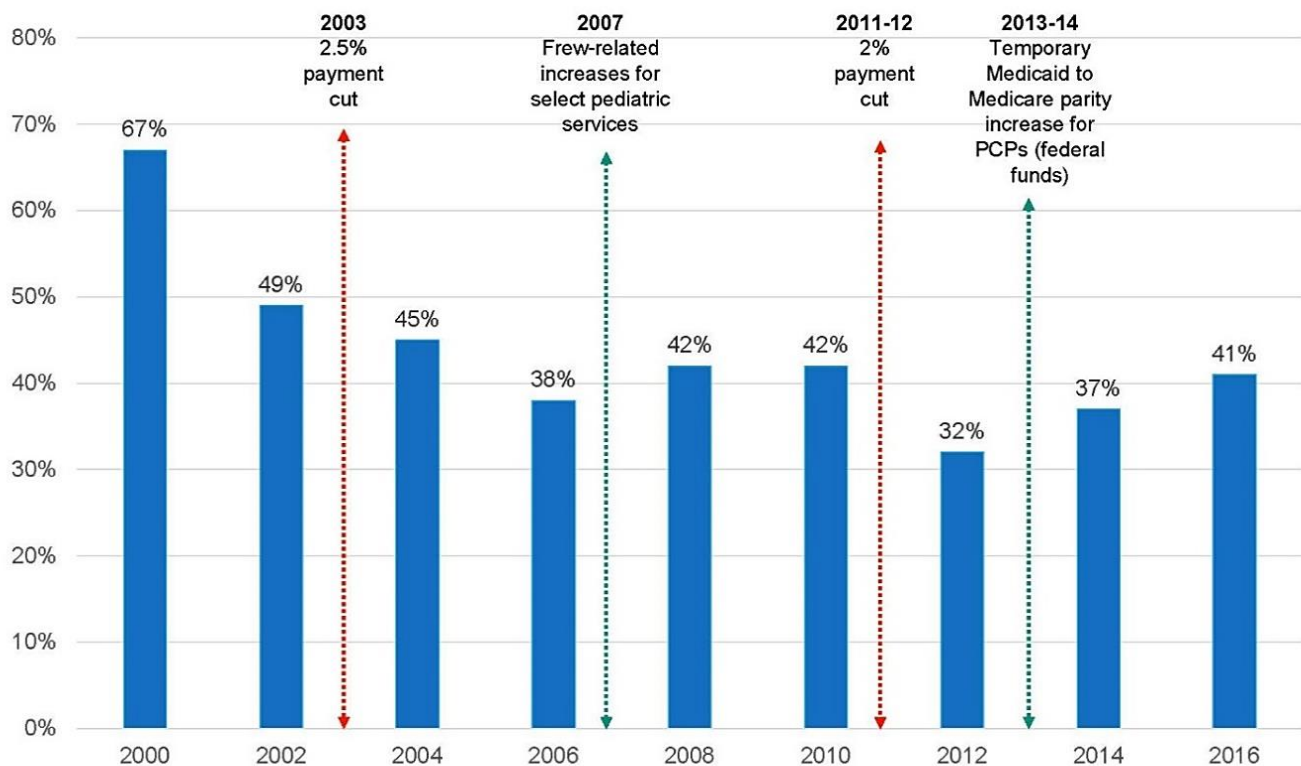
Unfortunately, Texas physicians have had to bear the brunt of much of the efficiency in Medicaid which has taken a toll on children's access to care.

- Inadequate physician payment rates have forced many physician practices to limit their Medicaid participation or cease it altogether.
- Physician payments have not been significantly updated in more than 25 years, while physician practice costs grow 3% annually.
- As a result, Texas Medicaid rates for physician services average 72% of Medicare rates, which in turn are significantly below commercial payment rates.
- Rates are set by managed care companies within the funding allowed by the Texas legislature and directly affect provider participation in the program.



Increasing physician's rates directly correlates with increased participation.

Percent of Texas Physicians Who Will Accept All New Medicaid Patients



We must invest in Texas Medicaid physician rates to ensure children have access to health care services to keep them healthy and well in their community.