

SEARCH

- Front
- Sections
- Topics
- Video
- Audio
- Data
- Join Us
- About Us

NEWS : LAW AND POLICY

# Study: Contraceptive Use Dropped When Texas GOP Booted Planned Parenthood From Medicaid



by [Jessica Mason Pieklo](#), Senior Legal Analyst, RH Reality Check  
February 3, 2016 - 6:24 pm

Excluding Planned Parenthood affiliates from Texas' Medicaid program has resulted in widespread negative consequences for contraceptive users in the state, a study released Wednesday concluded.

For women using injectable contraceptives, those consequences included a nearly 30 percent increase in Medicaid-paid births.

The study, published February 3 in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, found that after Planned Parenthood affiliates were excluded from the Texas Medicaid program beginning in 2013, delivery of the most effective reversible methods of contraception, including IUDs, implants, and injectable contraception, decreased. Meanwhile, those patients using injectable contraception saw a 27 percent increase in Medicaid-paid births.

Claims for IUDs and implants declined 35 percent and claims for injectable contraceptives declined 31 percent.

"Simply put, dedicated women's health providers matter," Dr. Joseph Potter, professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, and study supervisor, said in a statement. "Providers who are mission-driven and have the requisite experience and knowledge appear to be critical for the delivery of the most effective methods of contraception—IUDs, implants, and injectables. From a demographic perspective, this is important because both national studies and local studies show that these methods dramatically decrease unintended pregnancy."

Researchers drew their data from all Medicaid claims from 2011-2014, two years before and two years after the exclusion.

"This study isolates the effect of the exclusion not only on the delivery of services but also on

[rhrc.us/1QdAluL](http://rhrc.us/1QdAluL) COPY

Log In Tweet



A new report from the Texas Policy Evaluation Project links an increase in Medicaid-paid births to diminished access to injectable contraception as a result of excluding Planned Parenthood affiliates from Texas' Medicaid program. (Ken Wolter / Shutterstock.com)

## Twitter

Follow @rhrealitycheck 38.7K followers

**RH Reality Check** @rhrealitycheck 6m  
"We sentenced her to motherhood," Sadler says, with tears in her eyes, of a 13 yo rape survivor, in @TrappedDoc rhrc.us/1X6yNrE Show Summary

**RH Reality Check** @rhrealitycheck 1h  
"Siri, I'm looking for an abortion clinic." "OK, here's an adoption agency." rhrc.us/1RRuD7w pic.twitter.com/ASY1Ro2Vfn



## Facebook

Log In

## Popular

Today This Week



[The Zika Virus Is a Matter of Reproductive Injustice](#) by Beatriz Galli



[Advocates: Man Sterilized in ICE Detainment Deported to Guatemala](#) by Tina Vasquez



[Apple Maps Sends Abortion Seekers to Crisis Pregnancy Centers](#) by Jenn Stanley



['Trapped' Documentary Rejects Moral Divide Between Religion and Abortion](#) by Amy Littlefield



[The Real Story Behind Candidates' Stances on Detention Centers](#) by Tina Vasquez



[Anti-Choice Activist Behind Planned Parenthood Attack Videos Turns Himself In](#) by Imani Gandy



[Washington State GOP Advances 'Sex-Selective' Abortion Ban](#) by Nicole Knight Shine



[Kasich Touts and Clinton Stays Silent on Welfare Reform That Could Leave One Million People Hungry](#) by Ally

subsequent deliveries paid by Medicaid," Amanda Jean Stevenson, lead author and Ph.D. candidate in sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, said in a statement following the release of the study. "We examined differences between counties that had and did not have a Planned Parenthood affiliate, finding worse outcomes in places impacted by the exclusion; whereas places unaffected by the exclusion continued as they had before."

Study co-author Pete Schenkkan, an Austin attorney who served pro bono as lead counsel for Texas Planned Parenthood affiliates in three court cases challenging attempts to cut the providers from public health programs, explained the implications of the study extends beyond Texas.

"The results of the study have implications for ongoing litigation regarding publicly funded women's healthcare programs," Schenkkan said in a statement following its release. "Initiatives to exclude medically qualified providers of family planning and other women's health services if they are affiliated in any way with abortion providers have been adopted or proposed in 17 U.S. states and both houses of the U.S. Congress. Supporters of these proposals claim that other providers can meet the needs of women served by Planned Parenthood clinics."

"Until now, this claim had not been empirically tested," Schenkkan continued.

The study [follows another](#) published in the journal *Contraception* that found Planned Parenthood clients encountered barriers such as unnecessary exams, multiple visits, and additional costs as they tried to find a new provider once Planned Parenthood was excluded from the Medicaid program.

"The U.S. continues to have higher rates of unintended pregnancies than most rich nations, and we know that U.S. and Texas women face barriers as they try to access preventative services," Stevenson said. "It's a public health issue that Texas women struggle to achieve their reproductive goals."

[Like this story?](#) Your \$10 tax-deductible contribution helps support our research, reporting, and analysis.

For more information or to schedule an interview with [Jessica Mason Pieklo](#) contact [press@rhrealitycheck.org](mailto:press@rhrealitycheck.org).

Follow Jessica Mason Pieklo on twitter: [@hegemommy](#)

Tagged: [Abortion](#), [Abortion restrictions](#), [Access to abortion](#), [Access to contraception](#), [Civil rights](#), [Contraception](#), [Contraception, contraception access](#), [Contraceptive failure](#), [Economic rights](#), [Faith and Ideology](#), [Family planning clinics](#), [Health Systems](#), [Hormonal contraception](#), [Human Rights](#), [IUDs](#), [Law and Policy](#), [LGBT rights](#), [Medicaid](#), [Medicaid Coverage of Abortion](#), [Medicaid Funding for Abortion](#), [News](#), [Planned Parenthood](#), [Politics](#), [Race and Class](#), [Religious Right](#), [Reproductive rights](#), [Sexual Health](#), [Sexual rights](#), [Sexuality](#), [Social rights](#), [State legislatures](#), [Texas](#), [Women's rights](#)

Boguhn



Jeb Bush Voices Opposition to 'Roe,' Promises to Expand Crisis Pregnancy Centers by Ally Boguhn



White Republicans Have Pushed 90 Percent of 2016's Anti-Choice Bills by Teddy Wilson



Anti-Choice Activist Behind Planned Parenthood Smear Campaign Turns Herself In (Updated) by Nicole Knight Shine



Presidential Candidates Finally Begin to Speak Up on Flint Water Crisis by Ally Boguhn

## RH Wire

[Sanders and Trump lead as New Hampshire vote looms – campaign live - The Guardian](#)

[No time to lose in tackling violence against women - Huffington Post](#)

[Cruz wants to force DC to fund a school voucher program it doesn't want - Washington Post](#)

[If women are told to fear alcohol, they must also be told they have choice - The Guardian](#)

[After Planned Parenthood Ouster, More Medicaid Births and Less Birth Control - The Texas Observer](#)

[In Hopes Of Retaining Women, The Military Will Offer To Freeze Their Eggs - ThinkProgress](#)



**Anti-Choice Activist Behind Planned Parenthood Attack Videos Turns Himself In**



**Paid Family Leave Gains Momentum in New York Legislature**



**Planned Parenthood Smear Campaign Prompts Arizona Anti-Choice Efforts**

46 Comments

RH Reality Check

Login

Recommend 2

Share

Sort by Best



Join the discussion...



**CricketOmaha** · 3 days ago

It cost Medicaid \$10,000 when my sister had her last kid, and it wasn't even a complicated birth. Her implant costs like \$30 when she actually uses birth control (it was a planned pregnancy). I'm not sure how anyone can justify forcing women to give birth, based on the cost --not that women should be forced to give birth in any situation. Texas is a good example of what happens when we let the forced-birthers win. We need to fight back.

15 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Ken08534** → CricketOmaha · 3 days ago

Just a thought, but since Obamacare is free for the truly poor, and it includes, by law, contraception, why is this a problem? Why can't these women get their free Medicare coverage through Obamacare, make an appointment with an obgyn, and get (for free) the correct contraceptives for their needs?

^ | v · Reply · Share >



**LisaC** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago

Many providers do not treat Medicaid patients because the reimbursement is too low. If a woman on Medicaid does not have access to an ob/gyn who accepts Medicaid, then she cannot make an appointment with an ob/gyn and get the correct contraception for her needs. That is why excluding Planned Parenthood from Medicaid is a problem.

I'm continually surprised by how many people don't understand how health insurance works.

15 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Ken08534** → LisaC · 3 days ago

I understand how health insurance works.

The issue is the reimbursement rate.

^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Unicorn Farm** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

"I understand how health insurance works."

hahahahahahaah

You do not.

10 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**LisaC** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago

So if you think about it very hard, you'll realize you already had the answer to your thought.

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Ken08534** → LisaC · 3 days ago

Reimbursement RATE isn't impacted by reimbursement PRIORITIZATION.

^ | v · Reply · Share >



**Nessie** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago

Maybe if religious employers stopped throwing tantrums about allowing their employees to access birth control through their health insurance...

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share >



**LisaC** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago

Are you saying that you don't understand the difference between de-prioritization and exclusion? The study discusses the effects of the latter, not the former.

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**lady\_black** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

Nope. But access most assuredly IS affected by reimbursement rates.

4 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Arekushieru** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago

And she just explained that to you. It's like you don't even read....

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**lady\_black** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

No, sir... You most assuredly do NOT know how health insurance works, if you think poor women get Medicare. They don't. That's for Social Security recipients, which may include some women who are poor, but the main requirement is receiving Social Security.

6 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**fiona64** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

Go back to Breitbart and LieSpews. Your stupidity is not wanted here.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**lady\_black** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

Number one. Poor women do not get contraceptive coverage from Medicare, but any disabled woman who gets SSD or SSI for at least a year can qualify for Medicare.

The program you are talking about for poor women, as opposed to poor disabled women, is Medicaid. Nearly every GOP governor in the country refused Medicaid expansion, including our own former PA governor, Tom "Second Mile" Corbett. We showed him the door last year.

Second, not all doctors accept Medicaid reimbursement. When I was using it, another lifetime ago, I couldn't go to a private OB/GYN. I had to go to an OB/GYN hospital clinic for prenatal care, after which delivery, I had my tubes tied. Had I not decided on tubal ligation, or been refused (which happens far more than you think) I would have gone to Planned Parenthood for birth control, so long as I was on Medicaid. The hospital clinics do not prioritize family planning. They prioritize prenatal care. Thus a longer wait, which isn't always convenient.

I love folks like you, who have never navigated the system themselves, glibly telling women "Simply do this, that and the other thing." Do me a favor. Sit down, and SHUT UP.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›



**Unicorn Farm** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

"Why can't these women get their free Medicare coverage through Obamacare"

HAHAHAHAHA. What? What are you talking about? Do you just pick all of the health care related words you can think of and smush them together? Is this your idea of coherent thought?

"Why can't these women get their free Medicare coverage through Obamacare, make an appointment with an obgyn, and get (for free) the correct contraceptives for their needs?"

Why don't you spend some time reading this site and educate yourself about the very real reasons why these women might find it difficult to get their free

medicare coverage through obamacare (lol, dying laughing) and get birth control.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Ken08534** → Unicorn Farm · 2 days ago  
I'm sorry if my sarcasm was to subtle for you...

 **Unicorn Farm** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago  
Please. Surely you can backpedal better than that. Is "sarcasm" another word you don't understand?

 **Arekushieru** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago  
Ableism. ASSuming that everyone can understand sarcasm is YOUR problem not ours even if you WERE being sarcastic which I HIGHLY doubt.

 **lady\_black** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago  
You have NO IDEA what you are talking about. Shut your pie hole. You were not being sarcastic. You were being an idiot.

 **fiona64** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago  
Shut your fucking gob; you have no idea what you're talking about. And you weren't being sarcastic.

 **CricketOmaha** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago  
Not having access to a place to get contraception is the problem.

 **Ken08534** → CricketOmaha · 2 days ago  
"Not having access to a place to get contraception is the problem."

Really? How far is it from a PP clinic to the nearest medical center? PP doesn't place their clinics in the rural communities across America, they are in major metropolitan areas because that is where the greatest need is, and coincidentally, that is where the hospitals are. Here's a little exercise for you - how far is it from your nearest PP clinic to a hospital? This hospital likely has a building right next to it chock full of doctors, including OB/GYNs. If a woman can get herself to a PP clinic, she can get herself to the nearest OB/GYN.

^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **CricketOmaha** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago  
Seriously? If I'm on Medicaid or whatever state program and I walk in to the nearest OB/GYN, they don't take Medicaid patients, so I search around for a provider who does, and when I finally find one 2 weeks later, the wait list is 3 months long, I'm supposed to just go in and get free birth control when I need it? I'm single and I need a non-hormonal IUD, by the way. It is not covered by Medicaid or my health insurance. It costs more than 1/3 of my monthly income, which is way too expensive for most low-income women to pay out-of-pocket. So how am I supposed to get the healthcare I need when 1. I can't access it and 2. It's too expensive ...

9 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Young CC Prof** → CricketOmaha · 2 days ago

 What you're missing is that in Texas, poor pregnant women are eligible for Medicaid, but poor nonpregnant women usually are NOT eligible for any free health care through the state.

3 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Arekushieru** → Young CC Prof · 2 days ago

But it excludes PP?

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Young CC Prof** → Arekushieru · a day ago

PP has sliding-scale fees and you can usually get basic stuff like contraceptives pretty cheaply. Other healthcare providers aren't necessarily set up for that.

1 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Arekushieru** → Young CC Prof · a day ago

Which still raises the question of not being able to choose your health care provider under the Medicaid insurance exchange I think.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **lady\_black** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

Idiot. Nobody goes to a hospital and asks for contraception.

8 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **fiona64** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

You really do believe the bullshit you're spreading, don't you?

The women who seek care at PP are typically underprivileged. The "nearest OB/GYN" doesn't have a sliding adjustable fee scale to help the underprivileged. The "nearest OB/GYN" may not be taking new patients.

The nearest hospital, in 60 percent of markets, may be CATHOLIC, which means that a woman is not going to get the full range of services needed, from contraception to termination ... and is more likely to die of medical neglect than in any other medical facility in the whole fucking NATION. <http://america.aljazeera.com/o...>

Wake the fuck up.

5 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Arekushieru** → Ken08534 · 2 days ago

Ableism again. Quelle surprise.

2 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Nessie** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago

Cough up some damn facts and citations, or take your "thoughts" back to LieSiteSpews.

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share ›

 **Aquarius 1027** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago

Actually, Medicare is for individuals age 65 or older and certain young people with disabilities. - However, Medicaid was always implemented at the state level with different eligibility requirements. Under the Medicaid expansion with the ACA, the federal requirement for Medicaid increased eligibility to everyone with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level. (FPL)

Then SCOTUS ruled in 2012 that each state had the option NOT to participate with the Medicaid expansion. As of January 2016, 20 states do NOT participate. These 20 states use their own eligibility requirements such as in Alabama where Medicaid is available for parents in a family of three only for those with incomes up to 18% of the FPL - This leaves a significant gap in

those with incomes up to 10% of the FPL - this leaves a significant gap in coverage, try learning the facts first before making generalized assumptions.

7 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Ken08534** → Aquarius 1027 · 3 days ago  
"In most states not participating, Medicaid is generally NOT available to childless adults."  
The truly poor have access to 100% subsidized healthcare under PPACA, those with jobs can get partially-subsidized healthcare under the same law. Medicaid is only one path to healthcare coverage.  
^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Nessie** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago  
You obviously have not read this or any other article on this site.  
6 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **fiona64** → Nessie · 2 days ago  
That's because he's a LieSpews troll.  
4 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Ken08534** → Aquarius 1027 · 3 days ago  
"the option NOT to participate with the Medicaid expansion. As of January 2016, 20 states do NOT participate."  
No, it said the law as passed by congress was unconstitutional - the law said states had a choice about expanding Medicare or not - those that choose not to would lose 100% of federal Medicare funds.  
I listened to the oral arguments, I remember it well.  
^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Arekushieru** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago  
And that disputes the point they made how? Oops.  
9 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Ken08534** → Arekushieru · 3 days ago  
SCOTUS did nothing but strike down an unconstitutional law. The impact of that judgement isn't their fault, they don't craft legislation - the outcome rests solely on the backs of the authors of PPACA that tried to force states to expand medicare with an unconstitutional law.  
^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Arekushieru** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago  
Nope. You don't understand the Constitution. You think it's legal to discriminate against women after all.  
9 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Ken08534** → Arekushieru · 3 days ago  
How is payment prioritization of a group that serves the needs of both men and women discriminatory?  
Refusal to sell someone something \*is\* discriminatory, requiring them to pay for what they want \*isn't\* discriminatory.  
^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Arekushieru** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago  
Uh we've already explained this concept to you sweetcheeks. It's not MY fault you refuse to grasp it. Go back and reread ALL of our responses to you because I'm not going to keep beating my head against the brick wall that is your brain.  
8 ^ | v · Reply · Share >

 **Arekushieru** → Ken08534 · 3 days ago  
Because of ignorance like you've demonstrated, you have SIMPLE that was

 because of ignoramuses like you in government. See now SIMPLE that was.  
6 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

 **fiona64** → Ken08534 • 2 days ago  
So easy to be an anti-choice male, isn't it? You just make glib pronouncements without the slightest comprehension of what women go through in attempting to obtain comprehensive medical care.

And it's not Medicare, you dumbfuck; that's for the elderly. It's Medicaid, as has been explained to you repeatedly.

Fuck off.  
5 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

 **Ezzy666** → Ken08534 • 2 days ago  
it took me months to get an appointment with the doctor I wanted when I moved to a different state. There were not enough health providers left in Texas to provide care after Texas made the decision to get rid of PP and other clinics.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/te...>

<http://rhrealitycheck.org/arti...>

<http://www.texasmonthly.com/th...>

<http://thinkprogress.org/health...>

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

 **Arachne646** → Ezzy666 • 5 hours ago  
My condolences to you on the loss of your right to healthcare, including reproductive healthcare, when you moved to Texas. I continue to pray for US citizens' full coverage by a comprehensive healthcare system that will not be more troubled by its profit-driven nature than all the other ones in Western nations.

^ | v • Reply • Share >

 **LisaC** • 2 days ago  
Point of clarification: Texas didn't exclude Planned Parenthood from Medicaid in 2013; rather, it eliminated a federally-subsidized Medicaid waiver program and replaced it with a state-funded one that excluded PP.

Last November Texas's governor announced that he was ending PP's Medicaid contract in Texas because the organization had committed Medicaid fraud. However, the state began looking for evidence of fraud only after the governor's announcement, and abandoned the effort when called upon to substantiate its allegation in court.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share >

ALSO ON RH REALITY CHECK

WHAT'S THIS?

**Kentucky's GOP-Held Senate Votes to Defund Planned Parenthood**

75 comments • 3 days ago

 **Nessie** — Grow up and stop whining. Pacifists still help subsidize the military, vegetarians still help subsidize meat.

**Anti-Choice Activist Behind Planned Parenthood Attack Videos Turns ...**

18 comments • 2 days ago

 **Xraygrrl** — He is the one who owes an apology to the families of the Colorado Springs shooting victims. He is a terrorist ...

**Planned Parenthood Smear Campaign Prompts Arizona Anti-Choice Efforts**

1 comment • 4 days ago

 **lady\_black** — Is there a companion bill that forbids Arizona republicans from receiving benefit of any treatment resulting from ...

**'Gynnya! Wake Up!': In-Custody Death of Black Teen Triggers Fresh Concerns ...**

1 comment • 4 days ago

 **Arachne646** — "Gynna, wake up!"

 [Subscribe](#)

 [Add Disqus to your site](#) [Add Disqus](#) [Add](#)

 [Privacy](#)

### Topics

- [Abortion](#)
- [Contraception](#)
- [Faith and Ideology](#)
- [Family](#)
- [Health Systems](#)
- [Law and Policy](#)
- [Maternity and Birthing](#)

- [Media](#)
- [Politics](#)
- [Race and Class](#)
- [Sexual Health](#)
- [Sexuality](#)
- [Violence](#)

### Social Media

- [Facebook](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Tumblr](#)
- [You Tube](#)
- [Reddit](#)
- [Digg](#)

### More

- [Login](#)
- [RHRC Data](#)
- [Donate](#)
- [About \*RH Reality Check\*](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Daily and Weekly Emails](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Jobs](#)