

# Support adequate funding for children's hospitals

## What is CHAT?

The Children's Hospital Association of Texas (CHAT) is made up of eight nonprofit children's health systems across the state:

- Children's Health, Dallas
- The Children's Hospital of San Antonio
- Cook Children's Medical Center, Fort Worth
- Covenant Children's Hospital, Lubbock
- Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Austin
- Driscoll Children's Hospital, Corpus Christi
- Texas Children's Hospital, Houston
- El Paso Children's Hospital, El Paso

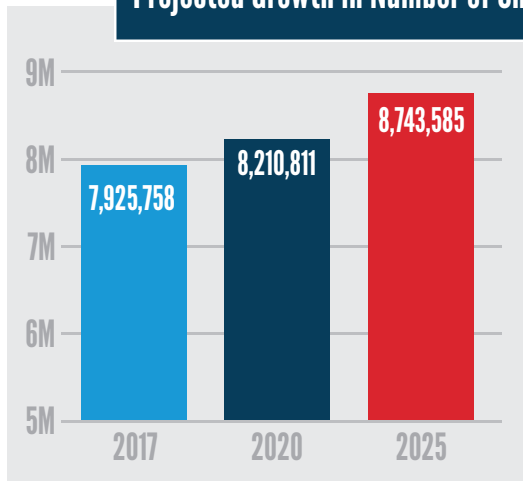
CHAT members treat children from 97% of Texas' 254 counties. More than 2 million outpatient visits and almost 80,000 inpatient discharges occurred at CHAT member hospitals in 2014. Our member hospitals are equipped with the specially trained physicians and unique instruments that are necessary to treat the most medically complex cases in children.



**CHAT member hospitals treat children from across the state.**



### Projected Growth in Number of Children in Texas

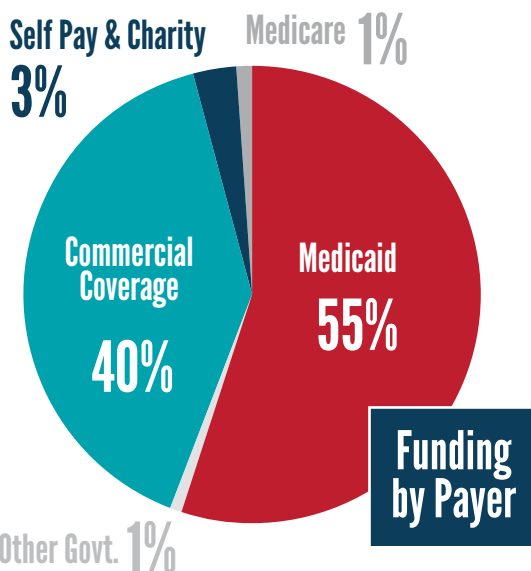


## Why do we need special hospitals for kids?

Our hospitals are the pediatric safety net for all Texas children and have distinct expertise in caring for children. Many of the patients in children's hospitals are transfers from other medical facilities that could not provide the necessary, specialized pediatric care for congenital heart conditions, transplants, cancer, sickle cell and other serious conditions. In many instances, the only way for a child to get access to life-saving specialty care is through a children's hospital.

# What are CHAT members doing to improve the quality, and lower the cost, of health care?

CHAT members work collaboratively to implement standardized best practices to treat childhood diseases. The first collaborative addressed asthma, one of the most common childhood illnesses. The hospitals have reduced both the cost of treating asthma and the number of children who were readmitted to the hospital for that condition. CHAT members are now addressing sepsis and bronchiolitis in two new quality collaboratives.



## What can we expect from CHAT this session?

During the 85th legislative session, CHAT will support efforts to:

- Secure adequate Medicaid reimbursement for outpatient services
- Ensure timely and appropriate medical services for children in the Texas foster care system
- Keep kids healthy through education about preventable injury, obesity, diabetes, immunizations and other health issues
- Improve birth outcomes and keep new Texas moms healthy
- Eliminate child sex trafficking

Aggregate results from the asthma quality collaborative show:

↓ **Length of Stay**  
*in the emergency department and inpatient areas*

↓ **Readmissions**  
*after 14 days and after 6 months*

↓ **Average Cost**  
*per discharge*

## Why is adequate Medicaid funding important for children's hospitals?

Just like any business, a hospital cannot survive without adequate funding and compensation for its services. Medicaid, a health coverage program jointly funded by the federal and state governments, helps disadvantaged families access health care for their children by paying hospitals for the care they provide to children. Because Medicaid covers so many children treated by children's hospitals, adequate Medicaid funding to cover the cost of that care is vital to the survival of these unique treatment centers for children.



**Please support children's health in Texas through an adequately funded Medicaid program and foster care system.**

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