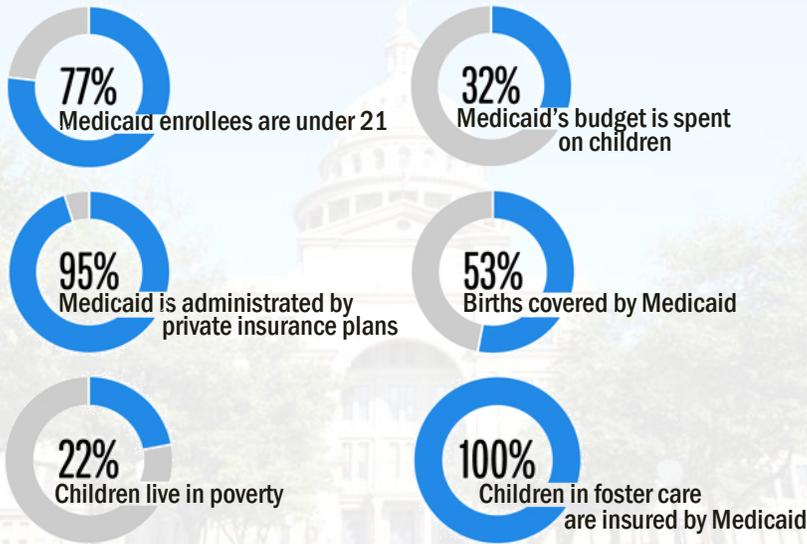




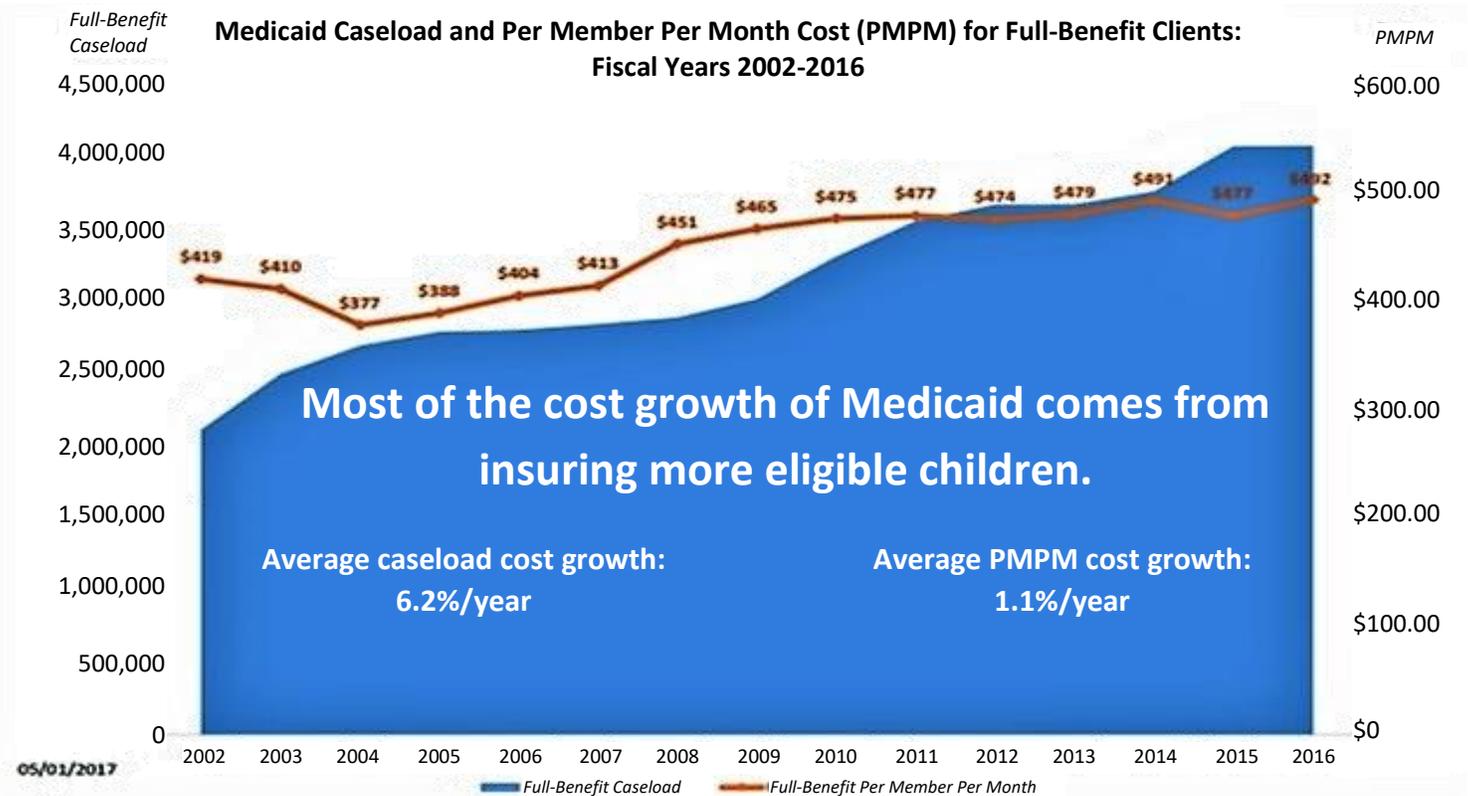
# The Value of Texas Medicaid to Children

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.



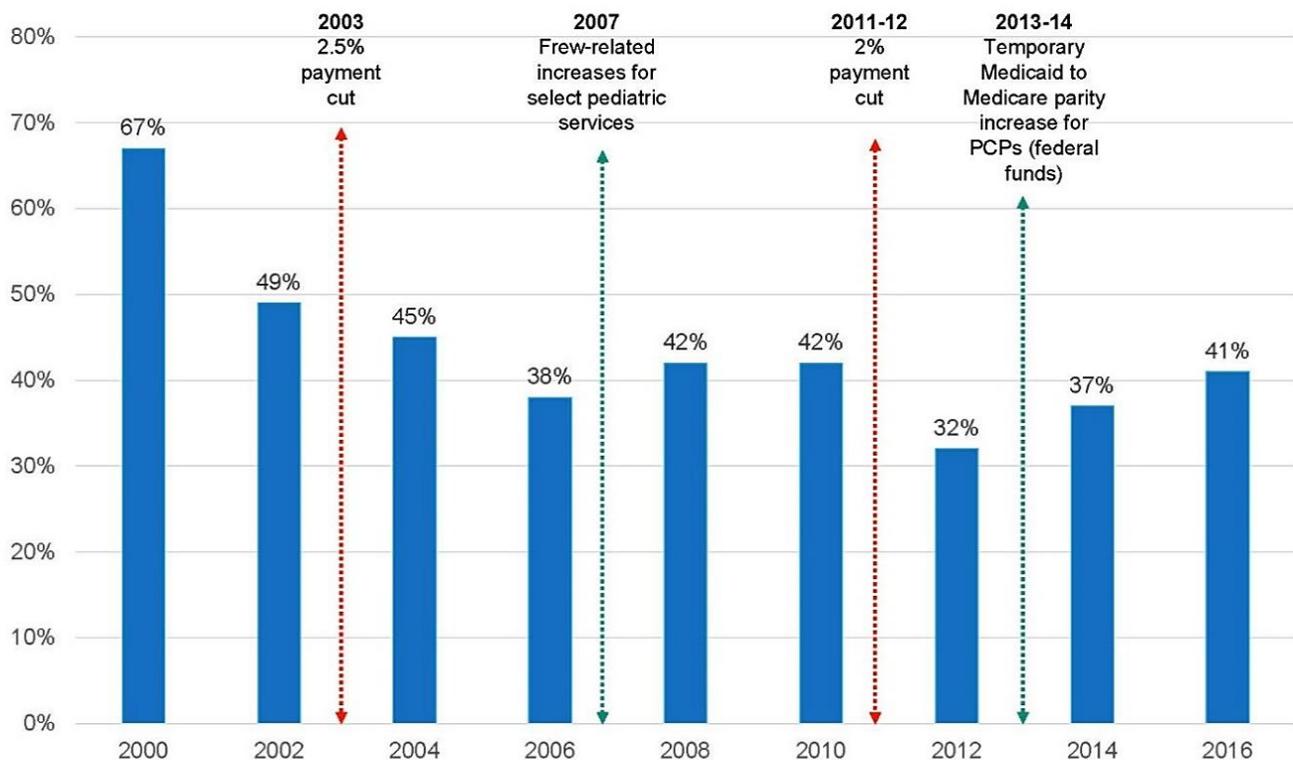
## Unfortunately, Texas physicians have had to bear the brunt of much of the efficiency in Medicaid which has taken a toll on children's access to care.

- 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.**