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# beyond **A B C**



*Beyond ABC* is a comprehensive report of the quality of life for children in North Texas, produced by the pediatric health experts and community advocates at Children's Health<sup>SM</sup>.

## BACKGROUND

Children's Health began publishing *Beyond ABC* in 1996 as a tool for advocacy and education

Report covers more than 1 million children in six counties in the Children's Health service area: Dallas, Cooke, Collin, Denton, Fannin and Grayson

Focuses on four critical factors: health, economic security, safety and education

## PROCESS

Data provided by the research team at The Institute for Urban Policy Research at The University of Texas at Dallas

Advisory Board comprising 31 prominent community leaders and advocates met regularly to discuss issues facing North Texas families and contextualize data, eventually developing eight actionable recommendations to meaningfully improve pediatric well-being

## KEY TAKEAWAY

*Some progress, but much work remains*

- Rate of insured children and the number of children covered by Medicaid have increased since 2016, but all six counties still exceed the national average for uninsured rates
- Food insecurity has consistently declined since 2013, but again, North Texas still exceeds national rates for food insecurity with 260,000 children considered food insecure
- North Texas has seen significant improvements in measured air quality, but we continue to be one of the top-25 most polluted Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the nation

## ADVISORY BOARD'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stabilize funding for CHIP and Medicaid increase access to health care, insurance
- Increase access to behavioral health screenings and services, particularly in underserved communities
- Promote the state's efforts to stabilize the Child Protective Services workforce to support the 30,000 children in the Texas foster care system
- Enhance medical staff training/screening process for identifying/responding to family violence
- Support increased development of mixed income neighborhoods and housing assistance vouchers
- Increase access to transportation services in underserved neighborhoods
- Continue to pursue stronger training opportunities/qualifications for early childhood teachers and child care workers
- Prioritize support for health and healthy behaviors in school, including nutritious meals, physical activity and behavioral/social/emotional health

## EXPLORE & SHARE *BEYOND ABC*

- Visit [childrens.com/beyondabc](http://childrens.com/beyondabc) to:
  - › Download PDFs of the 100-page report and English and Spanish executive summaries
  - › Request free hard copies of all materials
  - › View an infographic video highlighting the most compelling statistics featured in the report
- Promote our social infographic video by sharing or retweeting our Facebook and Twitter posts
- Use the data and recommendations featured in the report to shape your team's plans and priorities for 2018 and beyond