

2017

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Executive Summary





To see the detailed research and findings that informed the Advisory Board's recommendations, read the full 2017 *Beyond ABC* report at www.childrens.com/beyondabc. On this webpage, you can also request copies of the report and explore past editions.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your interest in the 2017 edition of *Beyond ABC*, a comprehensive assessment of the quality of life for children in North Texas as measured by four powerful indicators: pediatric health care, economic security, safety and education. This executive summary — a snapshot of our 100-page report — illustrates that while we've seen some successes and improvements in how we're caring for our region's youngest and most vulnerable residents, much work remains.

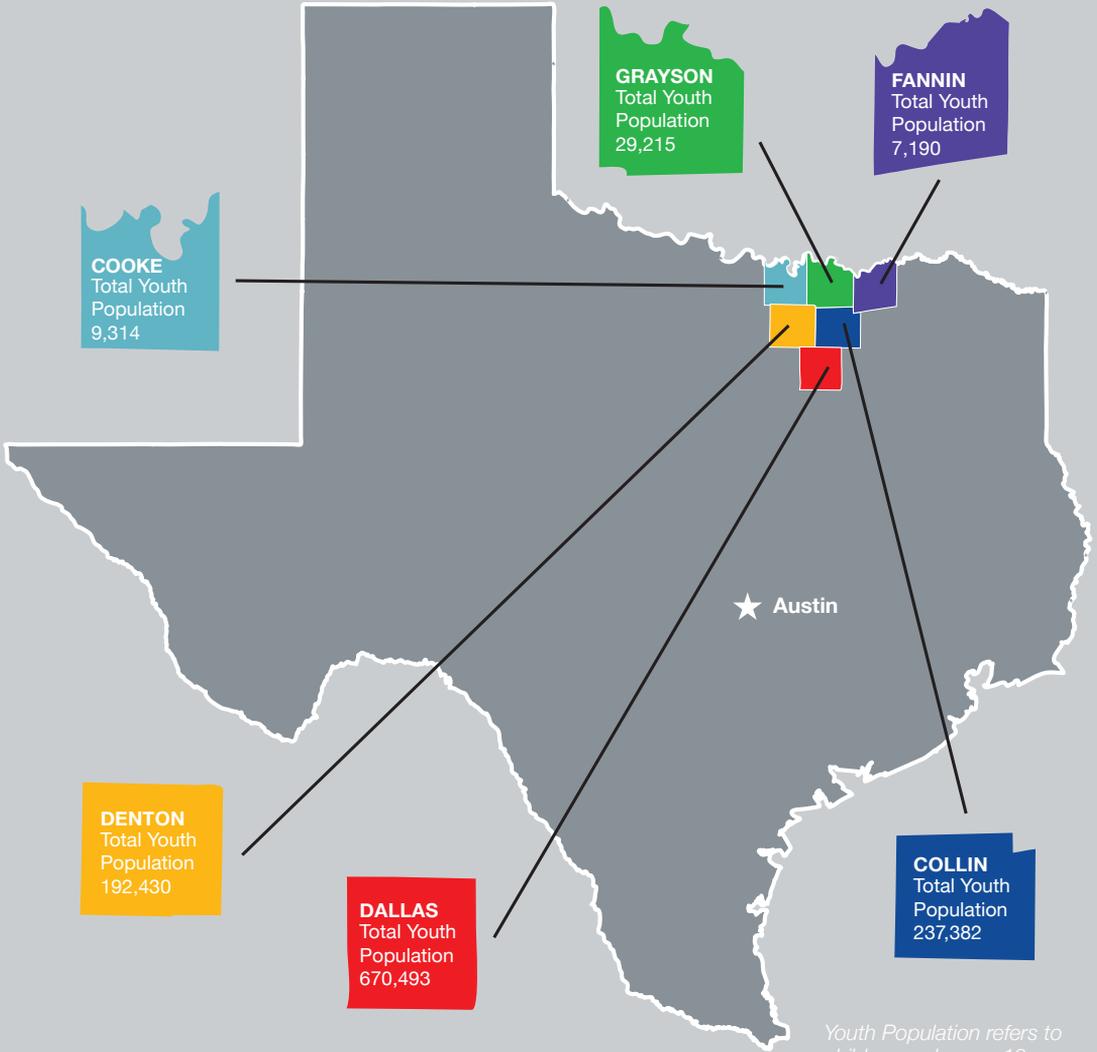
As the leading pediatric health care system in North Texas, Children's HealthSM believes that every child deserves not only a healthy childhood, but the opportunity to thrive. Armed with the powerful data featured in *Beyond ABC*, the carefully developed recommendations of our Advisory Board and the desire to effect change, we can profoundly transform what it means to grow up in North Texas.

With this information, we implore each of you to treat our mission as a call to action — join us in our work to make life better for children.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher J. Durovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C".

Christopher J. Durovich
President and Chief Executive Officer
Children's Health System of Texas

Demographic Summary



More than
1.1 million children

live in the six North Texas counties featured in the *Beyond ABC* report.

Health

2017 BEYOND ABC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- Stabilize funding for CHIP and Medicaid to give more children and families access to health care and insurance coverage
- Support children's overall health and wellness by increasing access to behavioral health screenings and services, particularly in underserved communities

NEARLY **50%**
of children in Dallas County
are enrolled in **Medicaid**.

More than
90,000
North Texas children **have asthma**.

U.S. children **lose** more than
12 million days of school
as a result of asthma.



More than
500,000
Texas children are uninsured.

The **rates of uninsured children** in Dallas, Cooke, Fannin and Grayson counties are

2X the national
average.

Roughly
175,000

North Texas children
live with a **developmental disability**.

Texas would need to
**expand its residential
facilities by 368%**
to address the waiting list.

Fannin County has **double** both the national
and statewide rate for **infant mortality** at
12.2 out of every 1,000 births.

Almost half of mothers
in Fannin County **DID NOT** receive
early prenatal care in 2015.

North Texas reports
strong immunization rates at
94% to 97%
on par with the state.

Texas ranks
LAST
in per-capita funding
for mental illness.

Economic Security

2017 BEYOND ABC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support increased development of mixed income neighborhoods and acceptance of housing assistance vouchers
- Increase access to transportation services in underserved neighborhoods, supporting reliable access to jobs, health care and other critical services

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defined the federal poverty level for a family of four at \$24,600.

1 in every 5

children in North Texas lives in poverty.

Children living in poverty are

7X more likely
to be in poor or fair health.



1 in 10

homeless children
lives in **Texas**.



Housing instability
among children has
steadily increased
in Dallas, Cooke, Denton
and Fannin counties.

1 in 3

North Texas children lives
in a **single-parent family**.

Nearly 33%
of single-parent families are food insecure.

For every family receiving housing
assistance in Texas, there are

3 HOUSEHOLDS
that are either **homeless or**
in need of assistance.

FOOD INSECURITY

in all six counties exceeds
the national average.

MORE THAN
260,000 CHILDREN
in North Texas are
considered **food insecure**.

For single parents
earning a poverty wage,

child care
accounts for

46%
of their income.

In Texas,
**the average annual
cost of center-based
child care is \$8,880**
for an infant, or
\$740 per month.

NEARLY
**500,000
CHILDREN**

in North Texas
qualify for free or
reduced-priced lunches.

Despite these options at school,
many children still miss meals
on weekends and over the summer.

Safety

2017 BEYOND ABC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support the state's efforts to stabilize the Child Protective Services workforce to improve the treatment and medical care for the 30,000 children in the Texas foster care system
- Enhance medical staff training and screening process for identifying and responding to family violence

Suicide is the
THIRD
leading cause of death
among children
ages 10 to 14 nationally.

North Texas has
half as many
approved foster homes
(1,244) as children needing
placements (nearly 3,000).

In Fannin County, CPS caseloads were

MORE THAN
DOUBLE

the national recommendation of
17 cases per worker and the state
average of 22, with 50.3 cases per
CPS caseworker in 2016.

In 2015, there were

843 hospitalizations of North

Texas children for traumatic injuries, a

25% reduction

from 2014. These include drowning, falls,
burns and car accidents.



There were

7,454 confirmed
cases of child
abuse and neglect
in North Texas in 2016.



Cooke County had the highest rate at **21.1 cases per 1,000 children.**

Within the past school year,
1 in 3 Texas students
in grades 7 through 12 **has used alcohol.**

Education

2017 BEYOND ABC ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- 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

Access to pre-K improves educational outcomes and helps narrow the achievement gap between socioeconomic groups.

Pre-K enrollment is steady across the six-county region, with

30,745

kids enrolled in 2016.



Less than 1/2 of kindergarten students in Cooke County were deemed kindergarten ready in 2016.

2/3 were kindergarten ready in Grayson County.

Nearly 1 in 3

Dallas County students had Limited English Proficiency (LEP) in 2016.

In Fannin County, it was about **1 in 20**.

Less than **33%**

of Fannin County graduates in the class of 2015 were college ready, lower than the regional average of **38%**.

Collin and Denton counties have the

HIGHEST PERCENTAGES

of students passing all subjects on the STAAR exam,

with **88.5%** and **82%**, respectively.

Nearly 30,000

North Texas third graders – **more than 1/2** – are reading below grade level, a powerful predictor of future high school graduation.

Dallas County has the lowest rate of high school completion at

84%.

Cooke County has the highest at **97.2%**.



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