

# CONTRACEPTIVE COVERAGE IN CHIP

**A baby is born to a teen mother once every 18 minutes in Texas. Expanding access to contraceptive coverage can help teens avoid early pregnancy.**

Texas consistently has one of the highest rates of teen pregnancy in the nation. However, in the last decade, the teen birth rate has declined by an astonishing 50%. Research is clear that **access to effective contraception is one of the key factors driving down teen birth rates.**

HB 800 and SB 148 would include contraception as a covered benefit under the Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP), in accordance with parental consent requirements as laid out in the Texas Family Code. Texas is one **of only two states in the nation** that does not include birth control for pregnancy prevention as a benefit under CHIP. In 2018, there were approximately 40,000 girls aged 15-19 covered by CHIP each month.

Teens who experience a pregnancy while covered by CHIP are transferred to the Pregnant Women's Medicaid Program. In Fiscal Year 2017, **87%, of teen births were funded through a Medicaid program**, at an All Funds cost of \$78.0 million. Teen births are directly associated with a number of other costs, including Medicaid coverage for the teen's children and other public benefits, as well as other indirect and long-term costs. For this reason, the fiscal note for HB 800 projects cost savings for the state associated with averting unintended teen births.

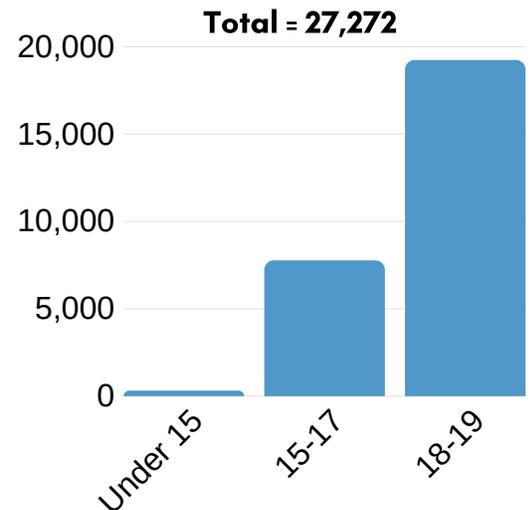
## BILLS FILED

**HB 800** by Rep. Donna Howard

**SB 148** by Sen. José Rodríguez

## TEEN BIRTHS IN TEXAS, 2017

BY AGE OF MOTHER



Source: CDC

Texas is now one of only two states in the nation that does not include birth control as a benefit under CHIP. Previously, Montana also excluded contraception in its CHIP program, Healthy Montana Kids (HMK), but was obligated to extend coverage in 2012 following a lawsuit. In the ruling, a Montana District Court Judge found the exclusion unconstitutional, noting, "it is impermissible that HMK pays for the full panoply of prenatal, delivery and post-partum medical services for minors who choose to carry a pregnancy to term, while denying payment for the associated medical services for minors who choose to avoid pregnancy."