

Texas Youth-Friendly Initiative: Wellness Hub



In Texas, an estimated 1 million youth do not have access to health care and a baby is born to a teenage mother every 17 minutes. Texas also imposes significant barriers against teens accessing confidential health care. Because Texas laws are complex and difficult to follow, medical professionals often report a lack of understanding on minor consent and confidentiality, and the circumstances under which they are allowed to treat youth. These complexities create roadblocks for young men and women seeking to access trusted, confidential care.

International research stresses that the most effective pregnancy prevention strategy is ensuring that youth receive regular, high-quality, comprehensive health services. Routine check-ups can include reproductive health screenings, and sexually active youth can be counseled on highly-effective contraception methods within a broader health care framework.

The Texas Youth Friendly Initiative tackles barriers to access by leveraging the research and findings of global and national experts to apply to Texas's unique demographic and legal climate through a community of practice designed to build capacity and share experiences among peers from across the state. Participating clinics have access to assessments, tools and resources to build capacity in the following areas:

- ⇒ Access to Care
- ⇒ Adolescent Appropriate Environment
- ⇒ Confidentiality
- ⇒ Best Practices & Standards of Care
- ⇒ Reproductive & Sexual Health
- ⇒ Behavioral Health
- ⇒ Nutritional Health
- ⇒ Cultural Responsiveness
- ⇒ Staff Attitude & Respectful Treatment
- ⇒ Adolescent Involvement & Engagement
- ⇒ Parent Engagement
- ⇒ Outreach & Community Engagement

Upon completing an 18-month Learning Collaborative process, participating clinics have the opportunity to become certified Adolescent Champions, while also becoming a Wellness Hub for community youth.



Program Objectives

To increase the number of youth accessing high quality comprehensive health homes by:

- ⇒ Reducing community barriers for youth to access high quality affordable targeted health care within clinics.
- ⇒ Creating and operationalizing a statewide standard for youth-friendly services.
- ⇒ Developing and implementing change on the clinic systems level.
- ⇒ Increasing collaboration between youth-serving organizations and health care providers through formalized linkages.



Building a Consensus Model

A critical component will be using current systems and engaging key stakeholders.

- ⇒ Collaborating with international, national and local experts to develop statewide standards and protocols.
- ⇒ Identifying and building upon current clinical training programs.
- ⇒ Developing a 'Community of Practice' approach to impact health services provision at a system level.
- ⇒ Integrating sustainability measures from the start.
- ⇒ Measuring the impact of youth-friendly focus standards.

To learn more, email Elaine Cray, Texas Campaign Project Manager, Elaine@txcampaign.org, or visit:

[Texas Campaign](#), [Adolescent Health Initiative](#), and [Adolescent Champion](#).

Data Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics.

Project Partners

