



Family Planning Legislations in Texas: A review of the long-term impact

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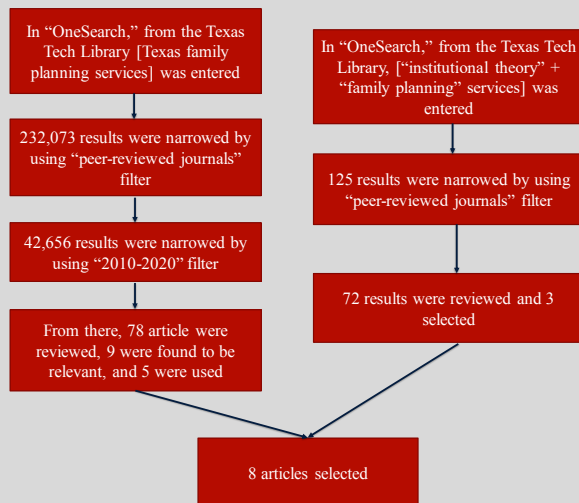
Introduction

- Unintended pregnancies are associated with negative health consequences for both the mother and child (White et al., 2015).
- Preventing unintended pregnancies saves governments money. Rather than the government assisting a mother with long-term financial assistance, they can provide short-term assistance.
- Preventing unintended pregnancies is accomplished through public education, wellness screenings, and by providing contraceptives (White et al., 2012).
- Publicly funded family planning services, which primarily serve economically disadvantaged people, have been established in communities to help prevent unintended pregnancies.



- Goals of Literature Review: Examine the implications of the over \$73 million family planning services budget cut had on families in Texas; Discover how the budget cut has shaped family planning services today.

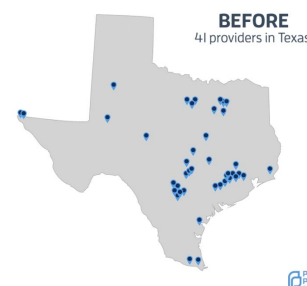
Methods



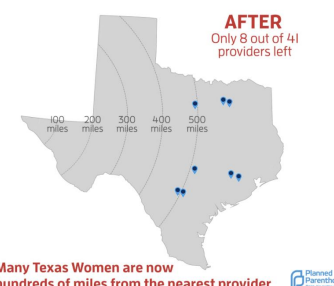
Review of Literature

- Access to family planning services varies from state to state. In 2011, **Texas** drastically cut funding for family planning services, **reducing funding from \$111 million to \$37.9 million**. Most of the remaining funds could not be cut or reallocated as it fell under Title X (White et al., 2012).
- Women especially were hurt as **35** of the family planning organizations in the state **lost** their **funding** while the remaining 41 faced drastic budget cuts (White et al., 2015).
- The same legislation also imposed new restrictions on abortions and **refused funding to organizations affiliated with abortion providers**, namely Planned Parenthood.
- It is important to note that not all Planned Parenthood locations offer abortions, and neither state nor federal funds may be used towards abortions-except in cases of rape or danger to the life of the mother. Government funding directed to Planned Parenthood must go to other services, such as wellness screenings (White et al., 2015).
- Hopkins et al. (2015) conducted eleven focus groups in nine Texas metropolitan areas after the legislative budget cuts to family planning organizations. Many women (N = 92) in Texas were **unaware of the legislation** but **noticed an increase** in their payments of birth control and other contraceptives that had been at reduced costs. Some women reported they were **forced to choose** between buying everyday essentials and contraceptives. Overall, women reported that it was **easier to find pregnancy-related care** than it was to find pregnancy-avoidance resources (Hopkins et al., 2015).
- An analysis of claims from 2011 to 2014 found there was a **decrease in the use of highly effective forms of contraception** (such as intrauterine devices), an **increase in the interruptions of contraceptive use**, and an **increase in the Medicaid covered childbirth rate** (Stevenson et al., 2016).
- Previously, economically disadvantaged women had access to family planning services, but after the funding cut, organizations such as Planned Parenthood, which had provided services to half of the 119,000 women served by the Women's Health Program, saw their funding greatly reduced, shifting costs onto those seeking care (White et al., 2015).

The Number of Abortion Providers in Texas
BEFORE & AFTER H.B. 2



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Theoretical Foundation

- Institutional theory considers the process of how various policies, norms, routines, and rules become policy/guidelines from social, rather than economic pressures (Thomson, 2018). **Established norms**, in the institutional theory, **often come from organized factions**, including, but not limited to religion, political parties, groups of people, and social classes (Nicholson-Crotty, 2007).
- In the aspect of family planning services, a faction, primarily political, targeted family planning services in-part to abortions services, which is taboo in many parts of the state, by slashing the state budget (Smith, 2016).
- The **institutional theory** gives a view of the **2011 Texas legislature family planning services budget cuts** that offers an explanation. The legislature was influenced by **social norms to enact policy** that affect all Texans. It is not monetarily driven, as it is more cost-effective for governments to support women pre-birth than after-birth (White et al., 2015).
- Through the institutional theory lens, a **change** could be coming as attitudes in Texas towards abortion are **warming**. As ideologies change among Texans, so will governmental practices (Smith, 2016).

Conclusion

- To ensure the effectiveness of family planning services, the legislature should **restore the funding** it slashed and establish clinics devoted entirely to women's health, where services such as contraceptives, pap smears, and mammograms are provided.
- Returning funding to women's health services would increase access to family planning services, both in terms of affordability and proximity (Woo et al., 2015).
- Remove stringent restrictions** on who may receive family planning services, which are mostly **limited** to U.S. citizens, those who are able to travel, and teenagers with parental consent. This would aid in accomplishing the overarching goals of family planning services (Hopkins et al. 2015).
- Eradicate the stigma** behind Planned Parenthood to allow increased use and support for family planning services. While some Planned Parenthood locations are against abortions, not all locations offer the service and tax dollars cannot be used. The organized effort by some against Planned Parenthood and not other organizations have resulted in economic pressures that have hindered services for the poorest and marginalized groups of Texas.
- A primary goal in public health is taking **preventative steps to ensure well-being**. Women's health and family planning are public health issues.

Implications

- The primary mission of family planning services is to **educate** and **provide resources** that help people determine how many kids they want through a multifaceted approach. Simply having or not having sex is not sufficient in determining family size.
- The politicization of abortion, Planned Parenthood (Woo et al., 2015), and the assumption that health clinics can fill the role of family planning services have led to several dozen family planning service organizations, and another several dozen saw their funding drastically reduced. These organizations took with them affordable access to resources that aided Texans. Not rooted in economics, rather the budget cuts leading to this came as a result of social pressures, including religion and politics, ignoring the profound implications.



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Objectives

- There is far more to family planning services than meets the eye and access in Texas is limited.
- Women, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, were most negatively hurt by the 2011 legislation in Texas that slashed family planning service funding and continue to be hurt by it.
- While we often talk about the impact of family planning services on women, it has an impact on everyone, regardless of gender or socioeconomic status.

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