



Texas Health Care Earns Failing Grade, Study Says

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A study published in USA Today Wednesday showed Texas ranked 49th in the United States for its overall health care, behind Louisiana and Arkansas.

The Lone Star State got a letter grade of "D" almost across the board.

The only good grade: a "B" for healthy residents.

The [Commonwealth Fund study](#) said Southern states have a higher rate of premature deaths than others.

It ranked the states based on insurance and medical conditions.

According to a study, people in Southern states are more likely to die before the age of 75 from conditions that could be delayed or prevented.

The study also dealt with the number of people without insurance and quality medical care.

Texas earned a "D" in both areas.

One Austinite said she's felt the pain, once going without insurance coverage for almost a year and suffering through strep throat.

"It's not surprising to me, because I feel like Texas ranks low in a lot of social service areas, and it's incredibly disappointing," said Jillian Bontke. "I feel like being such a big state, we should be so much more progressive in some areas."

From not being able to afford insurance to having a job that didn't provide it, people understand all too well what's happening in Texas.

"I was in a job that didn't provide insurance, contracting with a company," said Kyle Miller.

Miller said he was without insurance for two years.

"It's always in the back of your mind, 'What if something happens catastrophically?'" Miller said.

"There are some probably overall problems with how we deliver health insurance to people, things like employer base coverage tends to be something that is fracturing around Texas and around the rest of the country," said Mary Katherine Stout of the Texas Public Policy Foundation. "If you're relying on your employer to provide insurance and you want to change jobs, that becomes a barrier, and oftentimes you may go without coverage.

"State policymakers need to be able to make decisions that best meet the needs of their population," Stout added.

What do you think of these findings? Do you have any ideas on how to improve health care in the state? Share your thoughts in the feedback forum below.



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