

The Effects of Defunding: Texas and Indiana

1. Texas

Texas state legislators have been attacking Planned Parenthood health centers in a variety of different ways for almost a decade. They were successfully able to remove Medicaid funding from the state's Women's Health Program which allowed them to essentially, legally defund Planned Parenthood health centers. The Texas Policy Evaluation Project tracked the effects of this defunding by surveying 300 pregnant women seeking an abortion in Texas, and almost half said they were not able to get the birth control they wanted within the three months prior to become pregnant. There was also an increase in maternal mortality rates from 72 to 148 between 2010 and 2012 due to pregnancy and childbirth complications. Also, the number of births paid for by Medicaid increased by 27% according to a research team at the University of Texas at Austin.

2. Indiana

The Indiana state government has been slashing various sources of funding to Planned Parenthood since 2011. This attack caused 5 different clinics to close across the state, none of these offered abortion services. In 2013, the Planned Parenthood in Scott County was forced to close, leaving the county's 24,000 residents without a place to receive HIV testing. This closure resulted in disaster for the county, coming to a head in 2015. An HIV outbreak overtook the county because residents were sharing opioid needles and were not getting tested. When the outbreak was at its worst, 20 new cases of HIV were being diagnosed every week. There were almost 200 cases by the time the outbreak was under control. The closing of Planned Parenthood health centers directly led to the worst HIV outbreak in Indiana history.