



*Happy  
Fourth of July!*

**HOME INVASION**

Concan man claims  
**armed intruders  
steal pickup, more**  
in overnight heist

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# Hualde Leader-News

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ONE SECTION, 14 PAGES

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## Supreme Court: Subsidies are OK

**KIM EAGLE**  
LIFESTYLES EDITOR

In a 6-3 ruling last Wednesday, The Supreme Court proved the subsidies that 8.7 million people currently receive to make insurance attainable under the Affordable Care Act are constitutional.

The government can, and will continue to subsidize premiums offered by a federally-run health insurance exchange such as the one operating in Texas.

ACA and how they would be even further affected if Texas expanded Medicaid coverage.

It provides “some insights into the economic burden a

*‘If Texas chose to implement coverage expansion, which can be done at any time, the impact on the 1.5 million uninsured...would be positively tremendous.’*

The Texas Association of Community Health Centers and the Texas Academy of Family Physicians published a report by the health law and policy experts at George Washington University to show how Texans are affected by the

**Rachel Gonzales-Hanson**  
Chief executive officer, CHDI

growing pool of uninsured patients imposes on a community, not to mention the consequences to those indi-

PLEASE SEE **HEALTH**, PAGE 14

# HEALTH: In Uvalde County, 35.6 percent of people 18-64 are uninsured

FROM PAGE 1

viduals and families.”

The report also breaks down the distribution of those uninsured Texans and the 1.5 million other working Texans that could be covered by Medicaid if the state would allow it.

The ACA gives states two key choices: to expand Medicaid to cover poor uninsured adults and whether to establish a state Exchange.

The report claims that “no population stands to gain more from these choices than residents of Texas, who experience the nation’s highest uninsured rate.”

County-level estimates show that in 249 out of 254 counties, the proportion of uninsured adults exceeds 20 percent of the total adult county population. Uvalde County sits at 52.1 percent.

The study further shows that had Texas’ leaders chosen to expand Medicaid, approximately 1.5 million additional working-age adults (about one-quarter of the state’s uninsured

population) would have qualified for coverage.

“Furthermore, over the 2015-2024 time period, the state would have realized an estimated \$128 billion in additional federal funding (a 42 percent increase in federal Medicaid financing). In order to qualify for this additional federal funding, the state would have had to increase its own Medicaid outlays by only six percent over the same time period (\$13.5 billion). This additional outlay would be partially offset by reduced uncompensated care costs borne by state and local funds,” the report reads.

As of February 2015, over 1.2 million Texas residents had selected an exchange plan. The vast majority of enrollees (86 percent) receive financial assistance in the form of premium subsidies.

Rachel Gonzales-Hanson, CEO of Community Health Development Inc. stated that many of the individuals her staff helped to enroll in the insurance exchanges have stated how

grateful they are to now have coverage.

“They are not as worried as they were when they were uninsured; they have peace of mind,” Gonzales-Hanson said. “When patients have coverage, that eliminates one more barrier when trying to access health care. Our Health Center and other physicians’ offices are able to bring in more revenue when they see patients with coverage.

“Of course, this helps the bottom line. Health insurance actually improves health by helping Texans get into a health care system. Clearly this benefits families, our local economy and the Texas economy... If Texas chose to implement coverage expansion, which can be done at any time, the impact on the 1.5 million uninsured Texans and the Texas econ-

omy would be positively tremendous.”

## UVALDE COUNTY

All percentages are based on a Uvalde County population of 26,926 and an adult

population, ages 18-64, of 14,869.

In Uvalde County, there are 35.6 percent uninsured adults ages 18-64. No Texas county showed less than 16.9-percent uninsured adults as a percentage of the total adult population.

Uvalde County has 4.4 percent, or 1,173 residents, enrolled in Exchange Health Plans.

Of Uvalde County residents ages 18-64 with incomes below 138 percent of the federal poverty level (2,584 people), over half (52.1 percent) are uninsured. When considering Texans eligible for Medicaid expansion coverage, in no county is less than 24 percent of the adult population eligible.

Uvalde County provides \$4,025,635 a year, on average, in uncompensated medical care to its residents. It should be noted

that Bexar County is one of five counties in the state, providing more than \$200 million in non-reimbursable care each year.

The full report can be found at [www.tachc.org](http://www.tachc.org).