



**Parent Resource Guide  
Status Update - 2014**

**As Required By  
H.B. 1240  
81<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2009**



**Health and Human Services Commission  
December 2014**

## INTRODUCTION

House Bill 1240 (81<sup>st</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, 2009) amended §161.501-161.502 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to require providers of prenatal care or delivery services to distribute a parent resource guide to Medicaid-enrolled mothers of infants in Texas and, if possible, to the fathers or other caregivers of those infants.

H.B. 1240 mandated that the parent resource guide be available in both English and Spanish and include information on:

- Establishing a "medical home"
- Dental care
- Effective parenting
- Child safety
- The importance of reading to a child
- Expected developmental milestones
- Healthcare resources available in Texas
- Selecting appropriate child care
- Additional resources available in the state

Under H.B.1240:

- The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is required to make a resource guide available which meets the above requirements and for making it available in both paper and electronic formats.
- The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is required to submit a report to the legislature no later than December 1, of each even-numbered year evaluating the effectiveness of the resource guide in reducing costs to the state and improving outcomes for children. This is the third report produced by HHSC on H.B. 1240.

There have been no significant changes to the program since the last report. As such, the present report includes a description of the status of the program, distribution of the parent resource guide orders by county, and DSHS' plans for the revision of the parent resource guide and future promotion efforts.

## PARENT RESOURCE GUIDE DISTRIBUTION

DSHS selected the parent resource guide developed by the Raising Texas Initiative, *A Parent's Guide to Raising Healthy, Happy Children* to satisfy H.B. 1240 requirements. DSHS redesigned the parent resource guide in 2012 from a calendar layout that could be hung on a wall to a pocket booklet. This update was designed to make the resource guide user-friendly and a portable

reference for parents. The redesigned resource guide also included a schedule of vaccinations chart and an updated list of referral resources.

The updated English and Spanish versions of the guide were made available beginning in February 2012. DSHS announced the launch of the new guide on the DSHS Maternal and Child Health website and through an email blast to the Texans Care for Children's statewide network. The email encouraged their network to share the information to others. It is available free of charge to providers of prenatal care or delivery services to Medicaid-enrolled mothers of infants in Texas.

It is available in paper and electronic formats in both English and Spanish. Direct providers of Medicaid-enrolled mothers can:

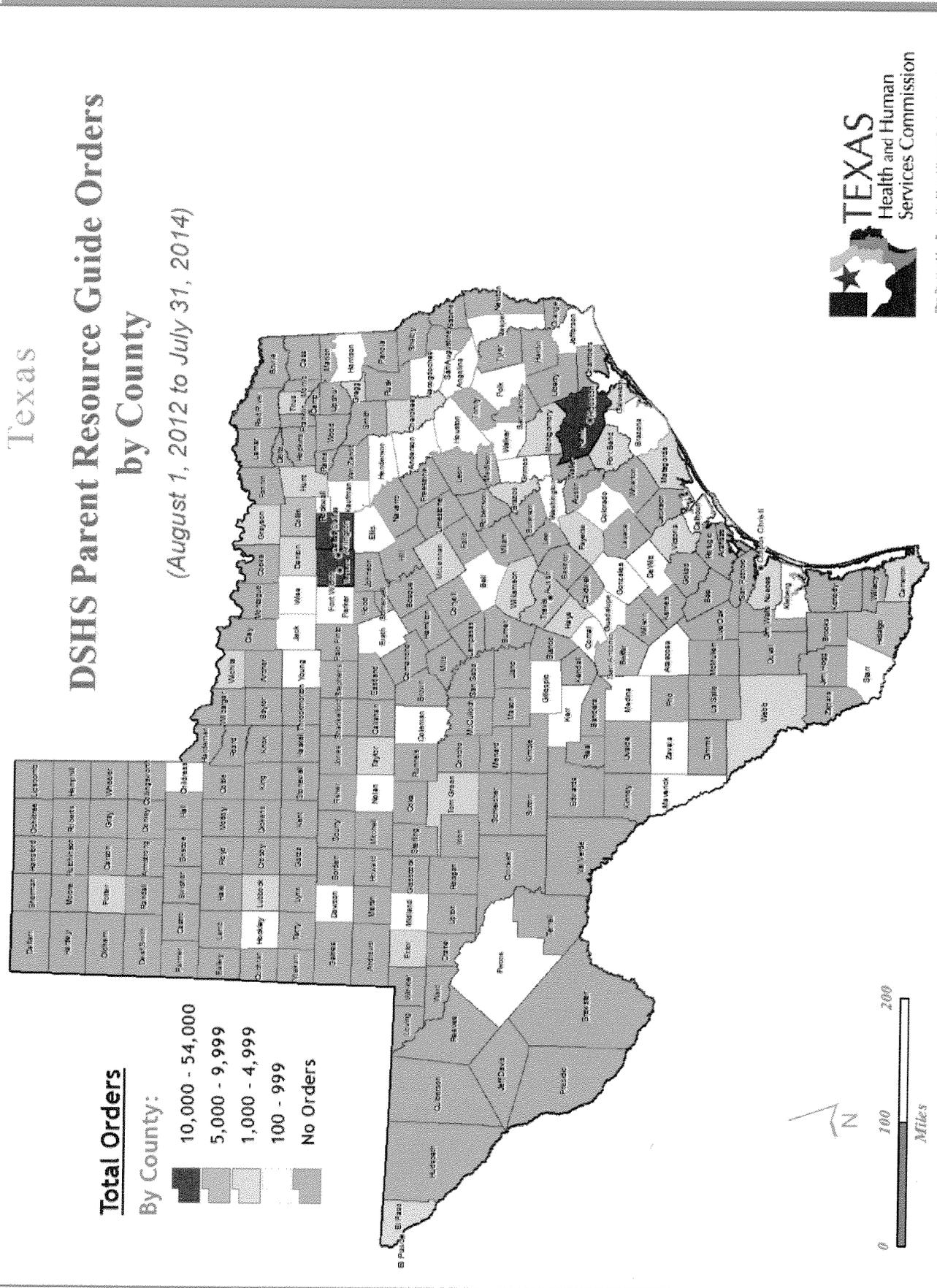
- Visit the DSHS Maternal and Child Health and Texans Care for Children websites or the Best Press website directly to order paper copies of the parent resource guide, or
- Download an electronic copy of the parent resource from the DSHS Maternal and Child Health website.

In order to meet the H.B. 1240 requirements, providers of prenatal care or delivery services to Medicaid-enrolled mothers may use the parent resource guide made available through DSHS, or an alternative resource guide that includes the mandated information.

Distribution of DSHS parent resource guide orders between August 1, 2012 and July 31, 2014 was analyzed by county and mapped in Figure 1. Some key findings for this period follow:

- Providers of prenatal care or delivery services to Medicaid-enrolled mothers from 76 counties in Texas ordered 201,400 DSHS parent resource guides. Approximately 71 percent of these were the English version.
- Dallas (54,000), Harris (29,975), and Tarrant (17,475) counties ordered the most DSHS parent resource guides.

Figure 1. DSHS Parent Resource Guide Orders by County, August 1, 2012 to July 31, 2014



## **NEXT STEPS**

DSHS plans to work with Texans Care for Children to update *A Parent's Guide to Raising Healthy, Happy Children* pocket booklet in 2015. In addition to updating the pocket guide there will be a campaign to promote the updated version to Medicaid providers.