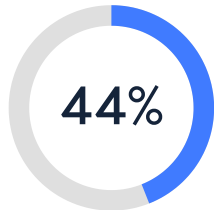


The Texas ER Dilemma

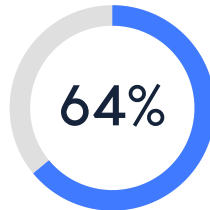
Every year in Texas, 1.8 million unique Medicaid enrollees visit the emergency room for a total of 5.8 million visits. This means that a Medicaid patient will visit the ER 3.3 times on average per year. However, 2.1 of those visits will be for non-urgent reasons. Let's fix that to restore the original intent of Medicaid and leave the ER for those who need it most.

Of the 4 million
People Enrolled in
Medicaid...



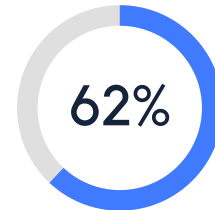
Visit the ER annually
(1.8 million)

Of the 5.8 million
Medicaid ER
Visits Annually...



Are non-urgent
visits
(3.7 million)

Of the \$1.1 billion
Spent on Medicaid
ER Visits Annually...



Is spent on non-
urgent visits
(\$684 million)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \$684.3 & & \$170.16 \\ \text{Million} & & \text{Misused} \\ \text{Misused per Year} & \div & \text{Per Medicaid} \\ \text{on Non-Urgent} & & \text{Enrollee Annually} \\ \text{ER Visits} & & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 4 \text{ Million} \\ \text{People on} \\ \text{Medicaid} \end{array} =$$

To put it in perspective, proposing a 1,500,000 patient expansion on Medicaid will result in an expected misuse of 255,240,000 taxpayer dollars every year.

Regardless of the economic loss, the quality and efficiency of care in emergency departments will continue to diminish as new Medicaid enrollees perpetuate the pattern of non-urgent ER visits.

More coverage does not imply better care for all.

Primary care is the solution

The exorbitant costs of healthcare can be minimized by helping Medicaid beneficiaries transition from unnecessary trips to the ER to primary care physician visits for non-urgent issues. This is achieved through the use of Medicaid carveouts for primary care. Medicaid patients get the proper care they need, emergency rooms are used for emergency patients, and taxpayer dollars are saved and spent efficiently. Everybody wins.

