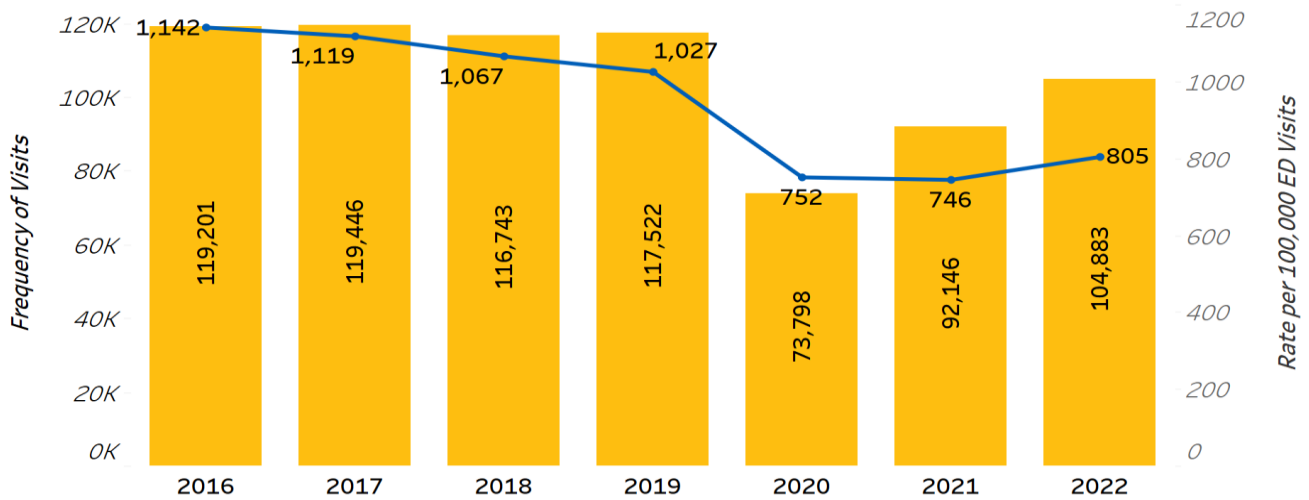


Asthma-Related Emergency Department Visit Trends, 2016-2022

The emergency department (ED) is a critical location for individuals to access care for worsening asthma symptoms. The ED may be utilized more often if the patient lacks a primary care provider. From 2019 to 2021, the percentage of adults diagnosed with asthma in Texas increased from 7.1% to 8.4%.

Using the Texas Health Care Information Collection public use data files from 2016-2022, trends in ED visits with a primary diagnosis of asthma are reported. The rate of asthma-related ED visits per 100,000 ED visits was highest among children (0-17 years old) and lowest among adults 75 years and older across all years of data.

Figure 1: Statewide Frequency and Rate of Asthma Related ED Visits by Year

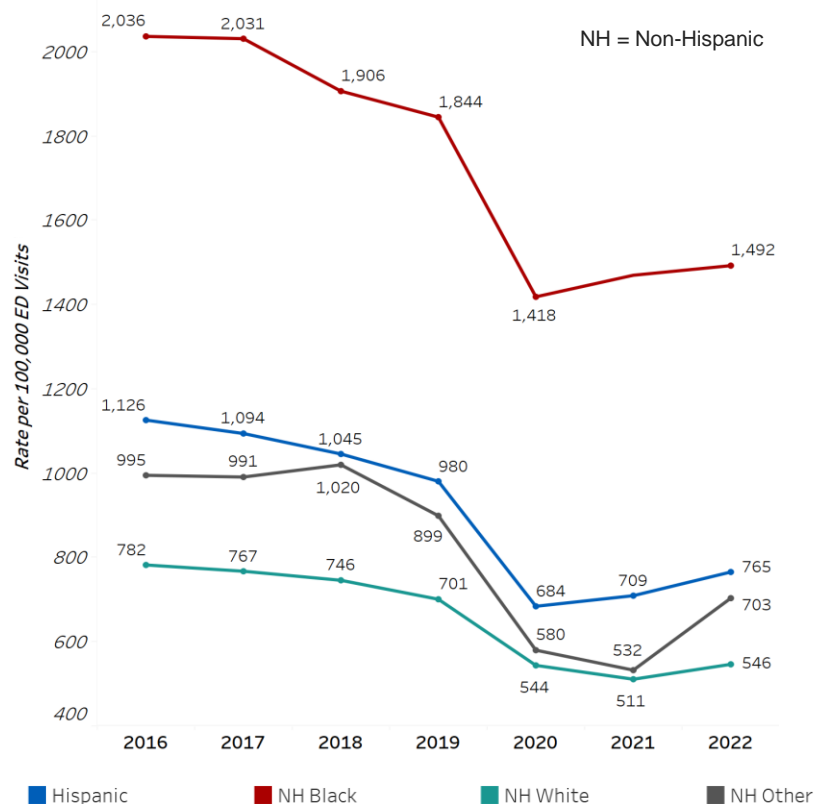


As seen in Figure 1, there was a decrease in the rate and frequency of ED visits from 2019 to 2020. This, in part, could be due to lower ED utilization during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rate of ED visits was highest among non-Hispanic Black individuals followed by Hispanic, non-Hispanic Other, and non-Hispanic White individuals across all years of data (Figure 2).

The rates of asthma-related ED visits varied by urbanicity and geographic location. The rate of visits for urban counties was 1,015, followed by suburban with a rate of 825, and lastly rural with a rate of 790 asthma visits per 100,000 ED visits.

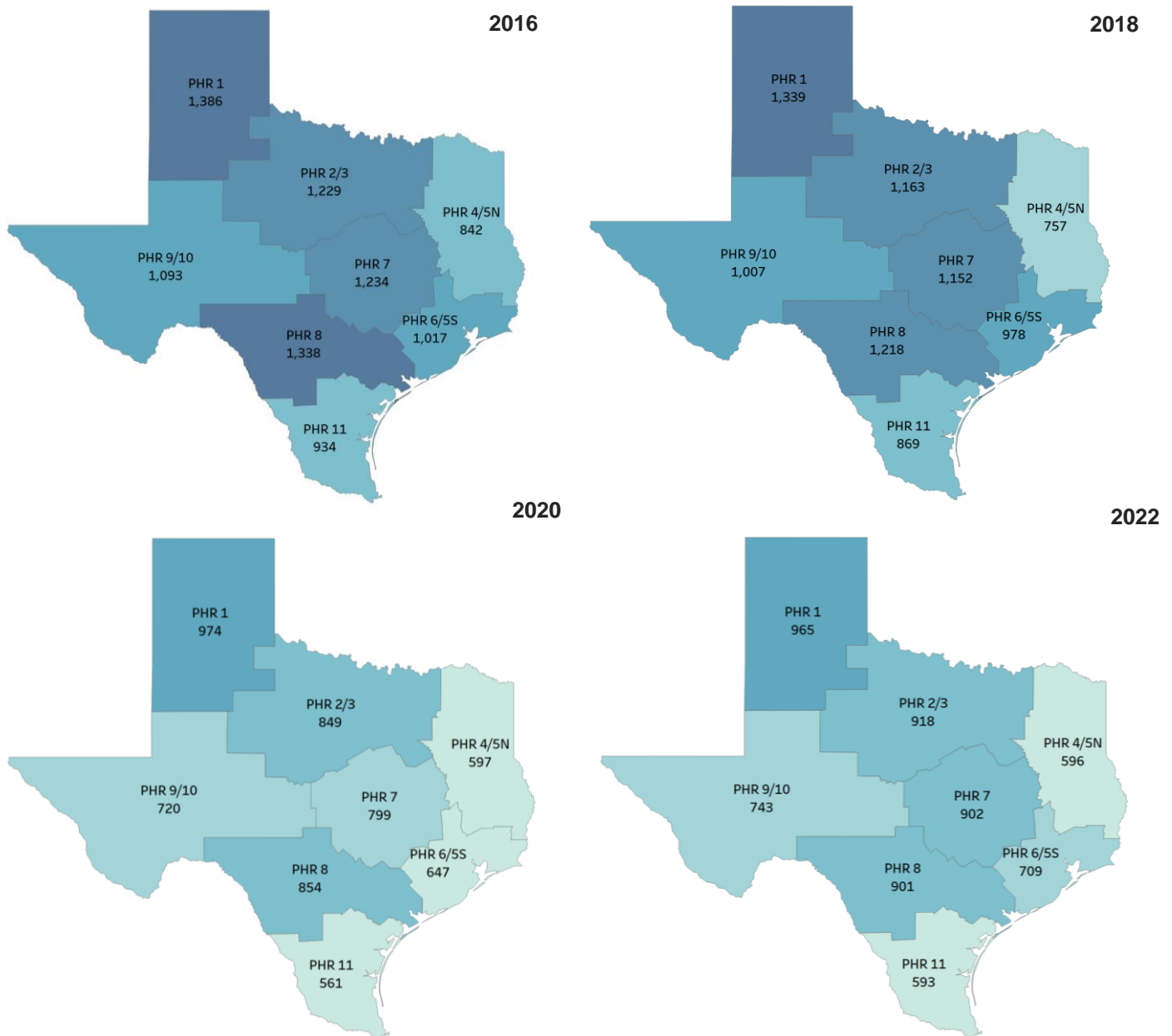
Figure 2: Rate of Asthma Related ED Visits by Race/Ethnicity



Asthma-Related Emergency Department Visit Trends, 2016-2022

ASTHMA-RELATED ED VISITS PER 100,000 HOSPITAL VISITS

From 2016 to 2022, Public Health Region (PHR) 1 had the highest rates of asthma-related ED visits compared to the other Public Health Regions of Texas. At the county level, the following had the highest rates per 100,000 ED visits: Borden (2,855) in 2016, Briscoe (4,155) in 2018, Glasscock (2,020) in 2020, and Schleicher (2,146) in 2022. Previous research findings using the Behavioral Risk Factor Survey found that asthma education programs were lowest among PHRs 1, 2, and 7. Increased access to asthma education programs may help improve asthma awareness and management across the state.



Asthma-related ED visits are categorized using the International Classification of Disease Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification codes. J45 is the condition code for asthma which encompasses different severities of asthma such as mild, moderate, and severe intermittent and persistent asthma.

1. Emergency department visits: CDC/NCHS. National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NHAMCS): 2010-2018. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ahcd/about_ahcd.htm

2. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS): Health of Texas (2011-2021). <https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/surveys-and-profiles/behavioral-risk-factor-surveillance-system#>

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021 Child Asthma Data: Prevalence Tables. <https://www.cdc.gov/asthma/brfss/2021/child/tableC4.html>