



tcmhcc
Texas Child Mental
Health Care Consortium

Evaluating Texas's Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program

UTHealth Houston School of Public Health

Youngran Kim, PhD (PI), Assistant Professor of Management, Policy and Community Health

Jack Tsai, PhD (Co-PI), Regional Dean and Professor of Management, Policy and Community Health

Trudy Millard Krause, DrPH (Co-I), Professor of Management, Policy and Community Health, Co Founder of the Center for Health Care Data

UTHealth Houston McGovern Medical School

Scott Lane, PhD (Co-I), Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

Taiwo Babatope, MD, MPH, MBA (Co-I), Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

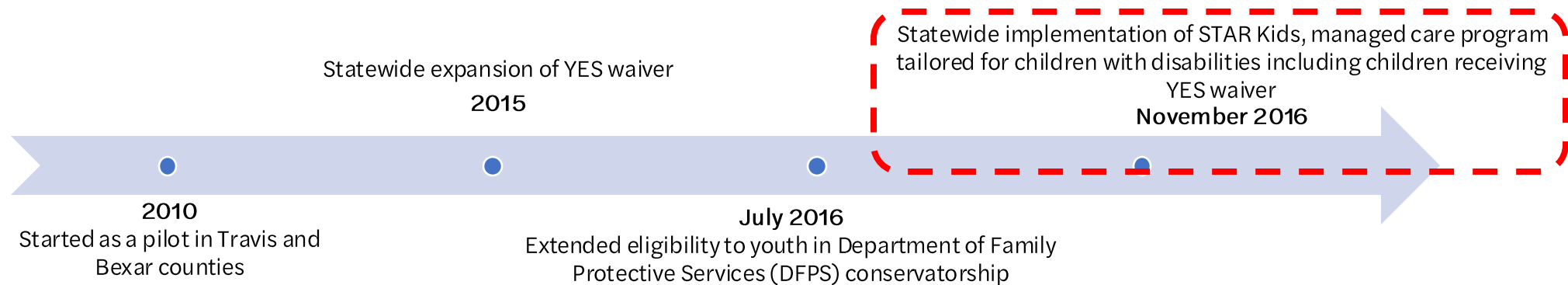
Director, Child Psychiatry Access Network (CPAN) and Perinatal Psychiatry Access Network (PeriPAN) Program

Background

- ❑ Children with **Severe Emotional Disturbance (SED)**
 - Have mental, behavioral, or emotional disorders that substantially impair functioning in daily life
 - Approximately 10% of children in the United States experience SED with functional impairment at home, school, or in the community.
- ❑ Experience **frequent psychiatric hospitalizations** and readmissions, resulting in increased healthcare expenditures
- ❑ Place a significant **burden on families and caregivers**, making care challenging and sometimes leading to **out-of-home placement**
- ❑ May not have their **complex, multisystem needs** adequately addressed by residential treatment programs, which can disrupt family dynamics and potentially worsen mental health outcomes

Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver

- ❑ To address the complex needs of children with SED and their families, many states use **Section 1915(c) Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) waivers** to support coordinated, multisystem care
 - Greater flexibility to deliver intensive home- and community-based services for children with SED while enhancing family support and improving access to needed services
- ❑ In Texas, the **Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Waiver** was approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide home- and community-based behavioral health services for eligible children and adolescents with SED



Overview of YES Waiver Services and Medicaid State Plan

YES Waiver Services

LMHAs/LBHAs administer YES Waiver services within their designated service area

Non-tradition and Supplement services

- Adaptive Aids and Supports
- Community Living Supports
- Family Supports
- Respite
- Minor Home Modifications
- Non-Medical Transportation
- Employment Assistance
- Supportive Family Based Alternative
- Paraprofessional Services
- Specialized Therapies
 - Animal-assisted therapy
 - Art Therapy
 - Music Therapy
 - Recreational Therapy
 - Nutritional Counseling
- Supported Employment
- Employment Assistance
- Transitional Funding
- Non-Medical Transportation

Medicaid State Plan Services

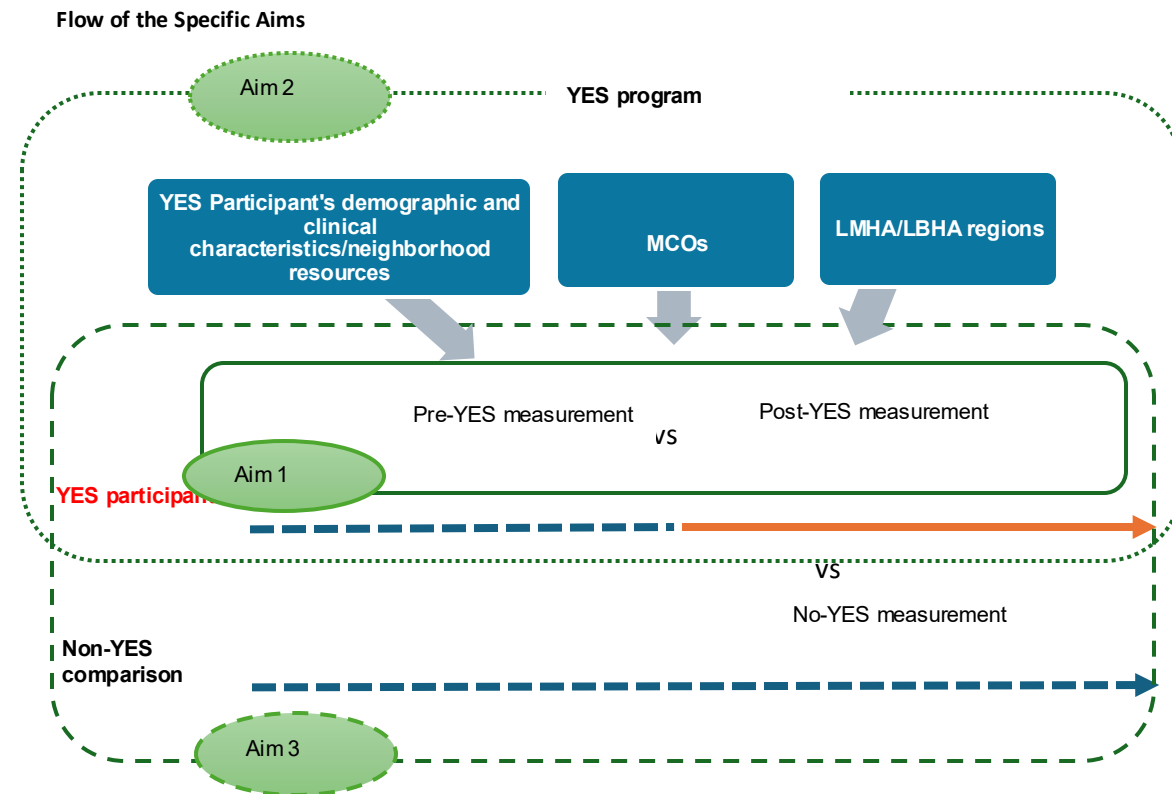
MCOs provide

Medical and Behavioral Health services

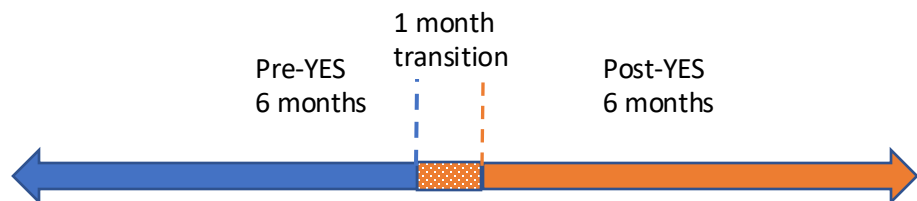
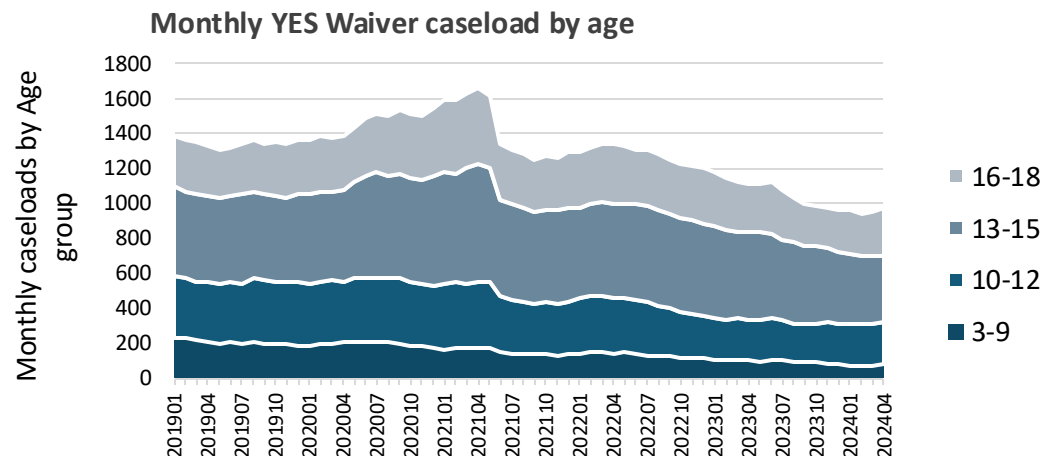
- Doctor or clinic visit
- Diagnostics and laboratory tests
- Prescription drugs
- Emergency services
- Hospital inpatient and outpatient care
- Non-emergency Medical Transportation
- Psychiatric Diagnostic Evaluation
- Psychotherapy-individual, family and group
- Skills Training and Development
- Pharmacological Management
- Medication Training and Support
- Crisis Service Array

Study Aims

- ❑ We conduct a comprehensive analysis using Medicaid claims data both for YES Waiver services and Medicaid State Plan services
 - In particular, there is a pressing need for an in-depth evaluation of program outcomes over an extended period, encompassing both pre- and post-enrollment in the YES program, including a comparison with those of similarly at-risk Medicaid-enrolled children who were not enrolled in the YES program but would have been receiving benefits



Preliminary Results



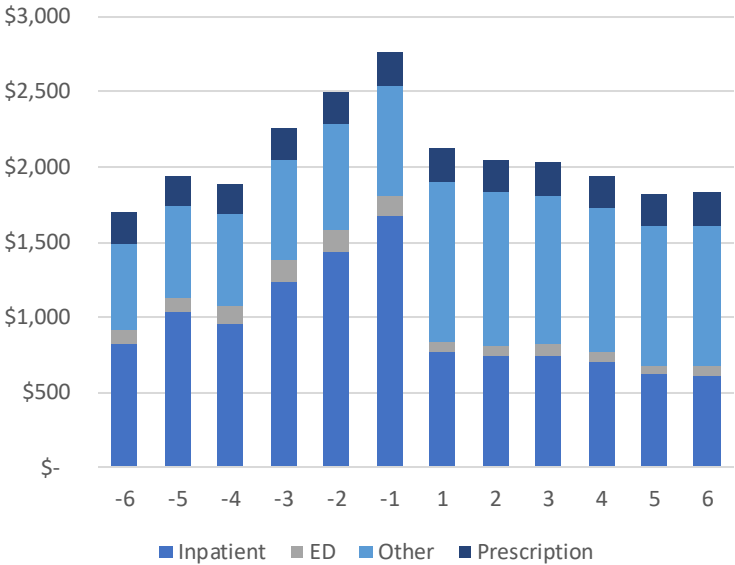
Data availability	01/2019-08/2024
Any YES enrollment	6,802
First YES enrollment in 08/2019 or later	4,796
First YES enrollment no later than 03/2024	4,386
Final for Aim 1 & 2	3,473

Characteristics of YES participants

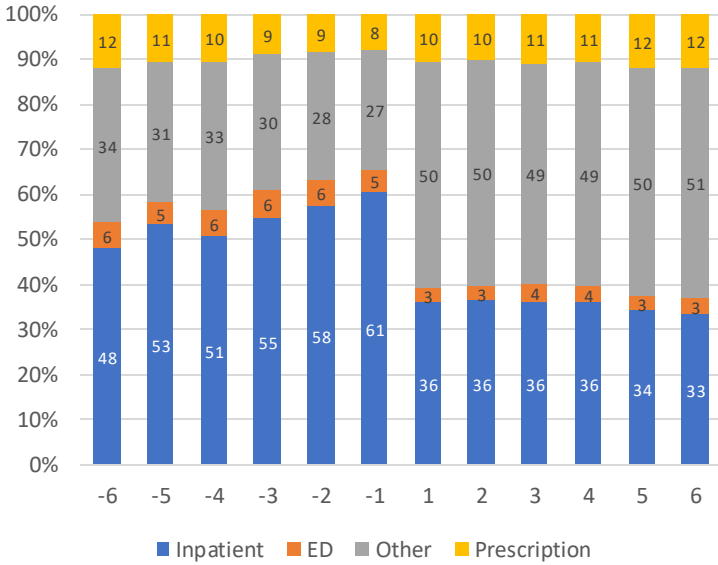
Characteristics	Total (N=3,473)	Male (N=1,788)	Female (N=1,685)
Age Group, year, n (%)			
3-9	535 (15.4)	403 (22.5)	132 (7.8)
9-12	853 (24.6)	491 (27.5)	362 (21.5)
13-15	1,471 (42.4)	628 (35.1)	843 (50.0)
16-18	614 (17.7)	266 (14.9)	348 (20.7)
Race, n (%)			
NH-White	953 (27.4)	481 (26.9)	472 (28.0)
NH-Black	645 (18.6)	365 (20.4)	280 (16.6)
Hispanic	1,520 (43.8)	719 (40.2)	801 (47.5)
Others	355 (10.2)	223 (12.5)	132 (7.8)
MCO Service delivery Areas, n (%)			
Bexar	275 (7.9)	157 (8.8)	118 (7.0)
Dallas	350 (10.1)	181 (10.1)	169 (10.0)
El Paso	67 (1.9)	30 (1.7)	37 (2.2)
Harris	650 (18.7)	354 (19.8)	296 (17.6)
Hidalgo	622 (17.9)	275 (15.4)	347 (20.6)
Jefferson	149 (4.3)	98 (5.5)	51 (3.0)
Lubbock	53 (1.5)	29 (1.6)	24 (1.4)
MRSA Central	135 (3.9)	65 (3.6)	70 (4.2)
MRSA Northeast	187 (5.4)	107 (6.0)	80 (4.7)
MRSA West	184 (5.3)	96 (5.4)	88 (5.2)
Nueces	116 (3.3)	49 (2.7)	67 (4.0)
Tarrant	327 (9.4)	160 (8.9)	167 (9.9)
Travis	358 (10.3)	187 (10.5)	171 (10.1)
Mental and Behavior Conditions, n (%)			
ADHD	2,521 (72.6)	1,520 (85.0)	1,001 (59.4)
Anxiety Disorders	1,904 (54.8)	761 (42.6)	1,143 (67.8)
Bipolar	942 (27.1)	423 (23.7)	519 (30.8)
Depressive Disorders	2,946 (84.8)	1,412 (79.0)	1,534 (91.0)
Conduct Disorders	1,891 (54.4)	1,113 (62.2)	778 (46.2)
Schizophrenia	603 (17.4)	256 (14.3)	347 (20.6)
Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders	1,646 (47.4)	681 (38.1)	965 (57.3)

Preliminary Results

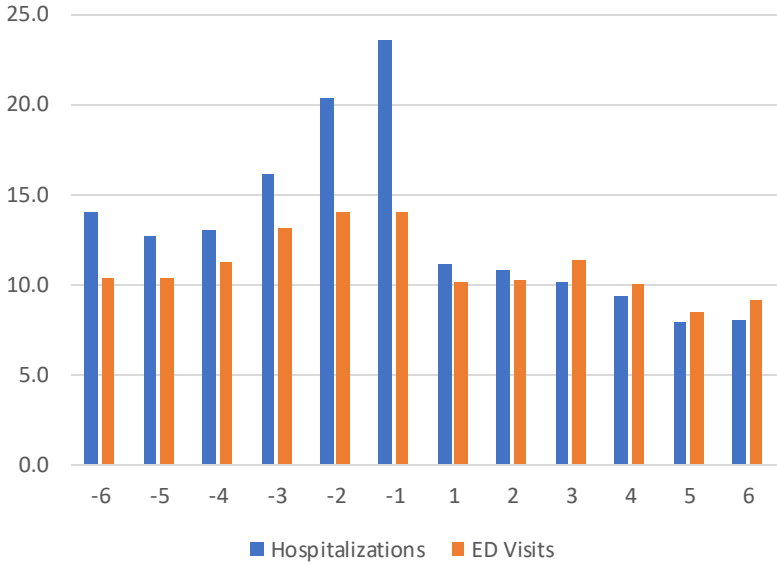
Monthly Costs



Proportion of Costs



Hospitalizations and ED Visits per 100 PMPM



Period	Costs					Utilization per 100 PMPM			
	Inpatient	ED	Other	Medical	Prescription	Total	YES	Inpatient	ED visit
Pre-YES	1,193	119	654	1,966	208	2,174		16.7	12.2
Post-YES	696	68	983	1,747	217	1,963	352	9.6	9.9

Frequent Services

Pre-YES

Services	No. of Claims
PERSONAL CARE SER PER 15 MIN	16,018
TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT	14,258
SKILLS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, PER 15	14,003
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES IN SCHOOL, GROUP	12,277
OFFICE/OUTPATIENT VISIT EST	6,835
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES ON THE BUS, GROUP	6,690
NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION; ENCOUNTER/	6,304
OFFICE/OUTPATIENT VISIT EST	5,701
PSYTX PT&/FAMILY 60 MINUTES	5,595
PSYTX PT&/FAMILY 45 MINUTES	2,271
DENTAL SEALANT PER TOOTH	2,194
CLINIC VISIT/ENCOUNTER, ALL-INCLUSIVE	2,064
MH PARTIAL HOSP TX UNDER 24H	1,830
RN, MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION PER VISIT	1,792
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES IN SCHOOL, INDIVI	1,576
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY	1,514
PSYCH DIAGNOSTIC EVALUATION	1,500
SPEECH/HEARING THERAPY	1,494
INTRAORAL PERIAPICAL EA ADD	1,492
THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES	1,482

Post-YES

Services	No. of Claims
TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT	60,487
PERSONAL CARE SER PER 15 MIN	21,253
SKILLS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, PER 15	10,735
OFFICE/OUTPATIENT VISIT EST	6,609
PSYTX PT&/FAMILY 60 MINUTES	5,615
OFFICE/OUTPATIENT VISIT EST	5,597
PSYTX PT&/FAMILY 45 MINUTES	2,767
DENTAL SEALANT PER TOOTH	2,044
CLINIC VISIT/ENCOUNTER, ALL-INCLUSIVE	1,929
INTRAORAL PERIAPICAL EA ADD	1,447
PERIODIC ORAL EVALUATION	1,359
THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES	1,344
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES IN SCHOOL, GROUP	1,325
CARIES RISK ASSESS HIGH RISK	1,276
GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY	1,255
SPEECH/HEARING THERAPY	1,252
TOPICAL APP OF FLUORIDE	1,213
INTRAORAL PERIAPICAL FIRST	1,165
MED TRNG & SUPPORT PER 15MIN	1,067
PSYTX PT&/FAMILY 30 MINUTES	1,023

YES related

Services	No. of Claims
ACTIVITY THERAPY, PER 15 MINUTES	35,142
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES	26,055
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES IN SCHOOL, GROUP	11,780
NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION; ENCOUNTER/	7,805
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES ON THE BUS, GROUP	6,206
SELF-HELP/PEER SVC PER 15MIN	4,014
SPEC CHILDCARE WAIVER 15 MIN	2,388
COMMUNITY-BASED WRAP-AROUND SERVICES, PE	2,021
RN, MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION PER VISIT	1,376
PERSONAL CARE SERVICES IN SCHOOL, INDIVI	1,324
Face-to-face individual health behavior	580
LVN/LPN, MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION PER V	560
SLP THERAPY, GROUP, BY LICENSED THERAPIS	388
RN DELEGATION, MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION	381
RN, INDIVIDUAL	218
TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT	181
SLP THERAPY, GROUP, BY LICENSED/CERTIFIE	166
SKILLS TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT, PER 15	107
Health behavior intervention, group (2 o	100
ARTHROSCOPY, MENISCECTOMY, KNEE, SEMILUN	95

Potential Challenges and Future Directions

❑ Challenges and Limitations

- Analyses are limited to Medicaid claims and encounter data
- Reliance on CPT/HCPCS codes to identify YES services
- Lack of qualitative data

❑ Future Directions

- Expand to include qualitative analysis, such as focus group interviews or provider surveys
- Identify and collaborate with community providers
- Develop subsequent projects for similar Medicaid programs and multi-state/national level analyses