



Hospital Emergency Room Data Collection

**As Required By
The 2014-15 General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, 83rd Texas
Legislature, Regular Session, 2013 (Article II, Department of State
Health Services, Rider 93)**



**Department of State Health Services
March 2016**

Hospital Emergency Room Data Collection

The 2014-15 General Appropriations Act, S.B. 1, 83rd Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013 (Article II, Department of State Health Service, Rider 93) specified that the Department of State Health Service (DSHS) shall collect emergency room (ER) data as set forth in Chapter 108, Health and Safety Code. DSHS is required to use the data to measure and report potentially preventable ER visits, including potentially preventable mental health and substance abuse ER visits. DSHS must also submit a report to the Office of the Governor, Legislative Budget Board, and chairs of each house of public health oversight committees on an annual basis, beginning December 2014.

Before beginning the collection of ER data, DSHS needed to adopt rules to govern the submission of data in order to provide standardized data, reports, and information regarding the type of ER department services, volume, average charges, and complexity of patient services provided by the hospitals. Amendments to 25 Texas Administrative Code Sections 421.71-421.78, Collection and Release of Hospital Discharge Data were adopted on September 19, 2014.

H.B. 1, 84th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 (Article II, DSHS, Rider 65) includes revised language regarding the collection of ER data specifying that DSHS shall submit a report on potentially preventable ER visits on an annual basis, beginning December 31, 2016.

DSHS currently collects inpatient and outpatient data from 580 hospitals and 400 ambulatory surgical centers. DSHS began collecting ER data from hospitals on January 1, 2015 in conjunction with the collection of inpatient and outpatient data. Once data is submitted by facilities, it must be verified by DSHS and then certified by each of the facilities before being released.

DSHS released the first complete quarter of ER data in January 2016 as part of the Inpatient and Outpatient Public Use Files. The data may be requested using the order forms at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/hospitals/Inpatientpdf.shtm> and <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/thcic/OutpatientFacilities/OutpatientPUDF.shtm>.

The annual report to the Legislature in December 2016 will include partial data as validation of the 2015 data will still be in process. The first full year of ER data is expected to be available as a separate quarterly public use data files during the first quarter of calendar year 2017. DSHS will begin compiling and analyzing this data for the report on potentially preventable ER visits. The first report on potentially preventable ER visits with a full year of data is expected to be published in the fall of 2017.