

HOUSTON HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS OF CHILDREN IN HOUSTON/HARRIS COUNTY

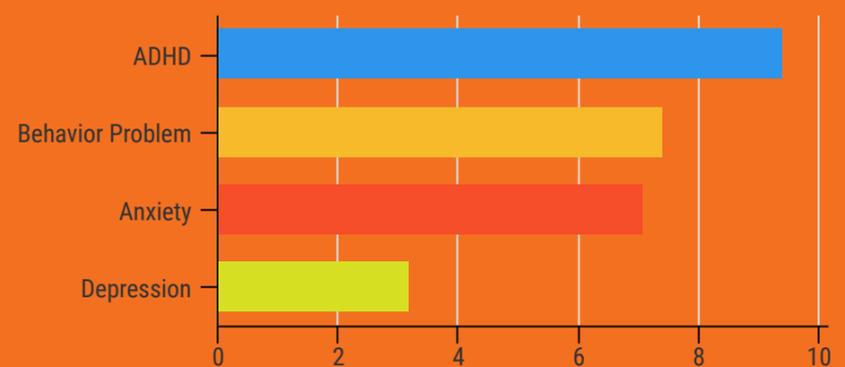
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Mental disorders among children are serious changes in the way children typically learn, behave, or handle their emotions, causing distress and problems getting through the day. Common mental disorders in childhood are attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders (ADHD), anxiety, depression and behavior disorders. Healthcare professionals diagnose mental health disorders in children using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. Data shows that depression and anxiety have increased over time. (Source: Centers for Disease Control, <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/data.html>).

Provider Diagnosed: Nationally, healthcare provider diagnosed prevalence of ADHD, behavior problems, anxiety and depression in children are presented in Figure 1. Only a small percentage of these children are accessing the mental health services they need.

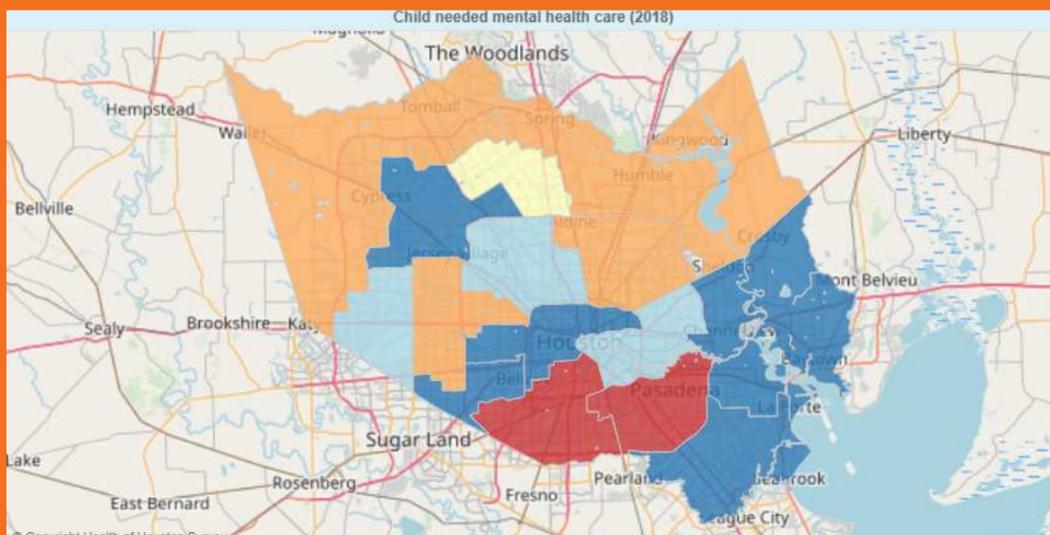
This is likely to be a severe under count since there are a large proportion of children who have not been officially diagnosed. Children who have not been diagnosed are likely to be experiencing some degree of impairment in their school or home functioning.

Figure 1: Percentage diagnosis by healthcare provider in US children, 2012



Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/data.html>

Figure 2: Percentage of parents reporting that their children needed mental health care, 2018



Maps of survey self report data (Figure 2) from The Health of Houston Survey 2018 show a high percentage of parents reported their children needed mental health care in certain areas of Houston/Harris County. These areas lie in the south and southeast of the mapped area (Medical Center Southwest and Pasadena-Hobby Area).

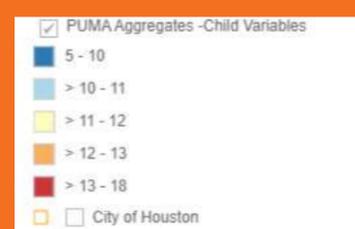
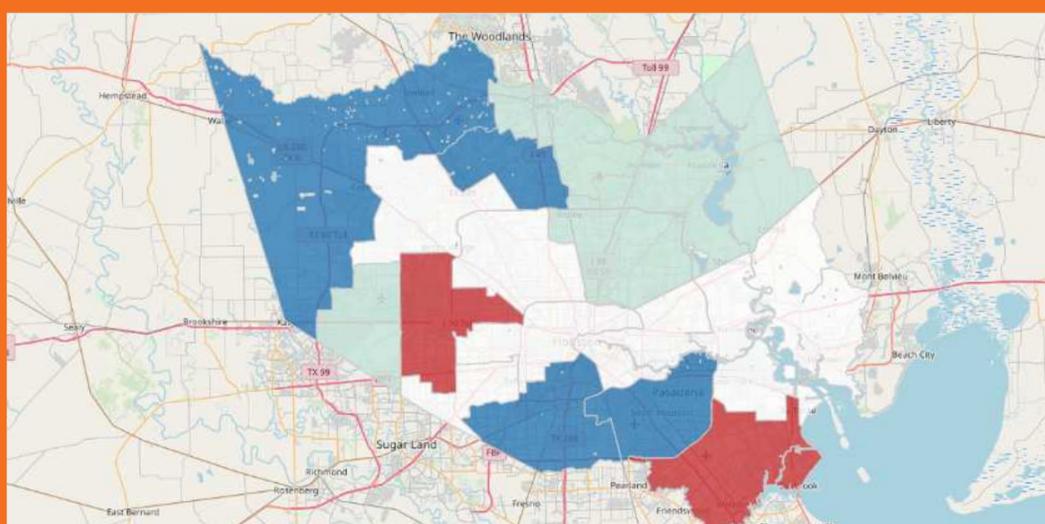
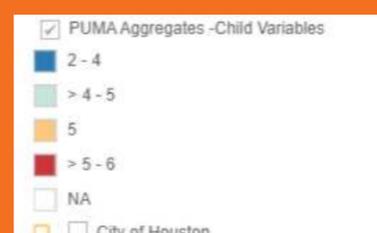


Figure 3: Percentage of parents reporting that their children received delayed mental health care.



Maps of survey self report data (Figure 3) from The Health of Houston Survey 2018 show a high proportion of parents reported their child received delayed mental health care, despite need, in certain areas of Houston/Harris County. Delayed care was reported by parents in the Clear Lake South area and the Spring Valley - Alief Area.



Source: Health of Houston Survey 2018, <https://hhs2010.sph.uth.tmc.edu/SingleMapReport/>