



Following are some of the ways the ED Study has been used to benefit the community:

1. The ED study was used initially to justify the need to develop additional clinics. Data from the study has been used in the needs statements of virtually all of the federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) that have been funded in Harris County.
2. Data from the study has been extremely useful to the Trauma Care Policy Council and has been used to justify the implementation of the following actions:
  - a. In combination with other data sources, the study was used to justify the need for HB 3588. In part, HB 3588 involved penalties for drunk drivers – penalties that in turn resulted in increased funding for emergency services. Such penalties have resulted in more than \$10,000,000 in funding in just the past year to emergency services in Harris and surrounding counties. Because of this, many level 3 trauma centers in the area that faced possible closure remain open.
  - b. In the last session the data was used to help defend the continuing need for the funding and was used in the communications to justify the release of the funding by the Lieutenant Governor.
3. Many hospitals use the data each year to target actions to address the need to reduce the inappropriate use of their emergency rooms. Some have focused outreach and education activities on ZIP Codes that are producing the largest percentage of primary care visits in their emergency rooms. Many have used the data to justify the need to change their screening activities in their emergency rooms.
4. Data from the study has been used by the Houston Fire Department (in combination with other data) to justify its request for funding to implement a telephone triage component as an addition to the 911 call system. This triage has been used to divert people with primary care related concerns to Ask Your Nurse and/or to clinics.
5. Data from the study was used to justify the need for and support the implementation of the Make the Right Call Campaign by Gateway to Care.
6. Data from the study played a key role in the approval of the intent to establish MOUs between the Harris County Hospital District and FQHCs.
7. Findings from the study were used (with other data sources) to support the state of Texas' December 2007 request for a waiver to Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. This waiver, if granted, would allow for expansion of health insurance coverage to a large number of uninsured persons.



8. On an ongoing basis, it is important to continue to conduct the study annually in order to provide information to Gateway to Care, the Harris County Healthcare Alliance, and the Trauma Care Policy Council with regard to the impact of their initiatives.