



## Hurricane Harvey and Region 3

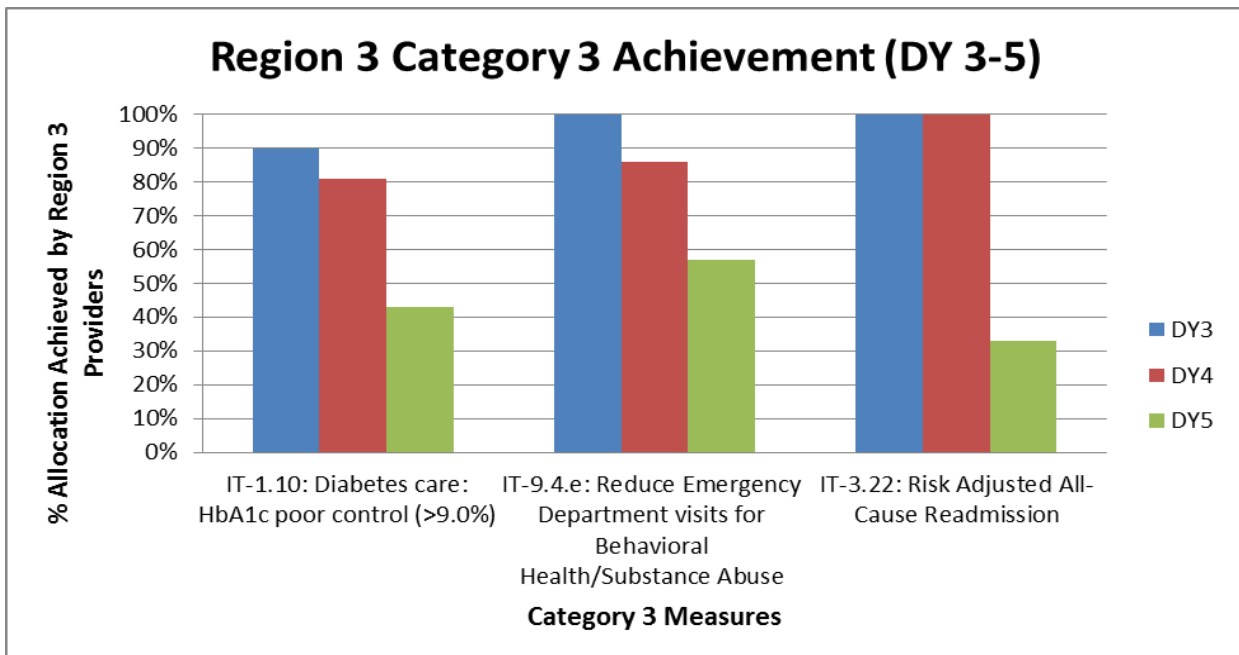
Three months after Hurricane Harvey devastated Region 3, people along the Gulf Coast have begun rebuilding their lives. Though the waters have receded and most neighborhoods are clear of rubble, the storm likely damaged people’s health. This newsletter discusses: health problems known to spike in the aftermath of natural disasters; likely impacts of the hurricane on DSRIP Category 3 and C performance; ways healthcare providers can recover from disasters and become more resilient; and Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts by Harris County Public Health’s Office of Public Health and Emergency Management.

# Hurricane Harvey’s Anticipated Impacts on Health Outcomes and DSRIP Performance

A variety of health complications arise after major storms and natural disasters and can lead to increased ER and hospital admissions. For example, research on hurricanes and floods shows that wound- and gastro-related infections spike immediately afterwards. Complications of diabetes and cardiovascular disease have also been observed. Moreover, increased behavioral health and substance abuse emergency department visits are seen after storms. Displaced people or those who’ve witnessed injury or death have new mental health stressors. Many may face Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome and depression. Others can turn to substance and alcohol abuse. During a storm services fragment and lost medications are slow to be refilled.

Based on health impacts seen in other storm ravaged communities, Region 3 may expect negative impacts to several DSRIP quality outcomes that could result in reduced goal and dollar achievement. These Category 3 measures include: IT-1.10: Diabetes care: HbA1c poor control (>9.0%), IT-9.4.e: Reduce Emergency Department visits for Behavioral Health/Substance Abuse, and IT-3.22: Risk Adjusted All-Cause Readmission. The figure below shows the percent of allocations that Region 3 Providers achieved for these outcomes in Demonstration Years (DY) 3-5. Each year after baseline submission in DY3, the goals increased (or high performance had to be maintained) and the balance of dollars shifted from Pay-for-Reporting to Pay-for-Performance. Overall, the data shows that the percent of dollars achieved declined over the three year period even though more money was attached to goal achievement each year. This indicates that the performance goals were difficult to achieve, even with a carry forward period in DY4. With the stresses of the hurricane, providers may face even more difficulties in the upcoming DYs as the populations they serve suffer long-term effects.

Looking further into the future, the Region may see negative health impacts in DY7-8 Category C outcomes that Region 3 Providers have tentatively selected: maternal care and pediatric care bundles. Research shows that “floods can have lasting effects on infants and children”, as well as mothers, with earlier delivery, infants with lower birth weights, and mothers with eclampsia and uterine bleeding.<sup>1</sup> Monitoring patient outcomes will play an important role in demonstrating to HHSC how the hurricane impacted the DSRIP patient population.





## Hurricane Harvey Resources for RHP 3 Providers

As Region 3 continues to treat storm-related illnesses and recover its healthcare infrastructure, incorporating ideas from the following resources can assist Providers in recovering and gaining greater resilience ahead of future natural disasters.

- Texas Hospital Association: [9 Smart Ideas for the Next Natural Disaster](#)
- World Health Organization: [Building Back Better, Sustainable Mental Health Care after Emergencies](#)

## RHP 3's Commonly Selected DY7-8 Measures/Bundles

During the September Monthly Region-wide Status Call, the Anchor Team shared [results](#) from the RHP 3 DY7-8 Planning Survey. The survey revealed the bundles and measures that Providers are likely to select for Category C reporting. These priority bundles (and related non-hospital menu measures) consist of the following:

- A1 – Improved Chronic Disease Management: Diabetes Care
- B1 – Care Transitions and Hospital Readmissions
- D1 – Pediatric Primary Care
- E1 – Improved Maternal Care
- H1 – Integration of Behavioral Health in a Primary or Specialty Care Setting

Through November 2017, the Anchor facilitated Provider calls about each of these bundles to open discussions about properly tracking metrics and improving performance, as well as effecting change by addressing patients' social determinants of health. The calls revealed that Providers—especially those that have not tracked the outcomes before—are focused on clarifying the complicated measure specifications and ensuring they can track performance correctly. Detailed call notes can be read [here](#). While this focus is necessary, it will push intervention planning—both clinical and in addressing patients' social determinants—back during an already challenging period for patients and Providers: Hurricane Harvey recovery. This, and existing challenges with how soon the DY7 performance year will begin (January 1, 2018), will likely further compound performance improvement challenges seen in earlier demonstration years.

<sup>1</sup> Carroll, A. E., & Frakt, A. (2017, August 31). The Long-Term Health Consequences of Hurricane Harvey. Retrieved September 22, 2017, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/31/upshot/the-long-term-health-consequences-of-hurricane-harvey.html>

<sup>2</sup> Texas Hospital Association. (2017). Texas Hospitals Step Up To Face Hurricane Harvey – 9 SMART IDEAS for the NEXT Natural Disaster. Retrieved November 29, 2017, from <https://www.tha.org/Publications/Texas-Hospitals/Texas-Hospitals-September-October-2017/Texas-Hospitals-Step-Up-to-Face-Hurricane-Harvey-9-SMART-IDEAS-for-the-NEXT-Natural-Disaster>

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). (2013) Building back better: sustainable mental health care after Emergencies. Retrieved September 26, 2017, from [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85377/1/9789241564571\\_eng.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85377/1/9789241564571_eng.pdf?ua=1)



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# Status Update on Hurricane Harvey Recovery from Harris County Public Health

Hurricane Harvey caused damage across RHP 3, a 9-county healthcare delivery zone designated by Texas's 1115 Waiver. In this interview, Michelle Eunice of Harris Health's RHP 3 anchor team talks with Mac McClendon, director, Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, Harris County Public Health, to discuss Harris County Public Health's response to Hurricane Harvey and its recovery efforts. The discussion also covers the office's partnerships with healthcare organizations and its work across county lines to respond to Hurricane Harvey.

Please click the image below to watch the video.

