



Local Mental Health Authorities and Local Behavioral Health Authorities in Texas

Informational Report

Results in Brief

Why OIG Compiled This Report

During state fiscal year 2024, which covered the period from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024, LMHAs and LBHAs in Texas received \$1.47 billion in state and federal funding from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and reported 3,428,150 mental health encounters for 269,860 individuals to HHSC.

This Informational Report

This informational report is not an audit report under generally accepted government auditing standards. The report includes (a) the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General Audit and Inspections Division's (OIG Audit's) compilation and analysis of non-audited information obtained from multiple sources and (b) observations drawn from encounter data obtained for the period from September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024. It is intended to provide information only and should not be considered guidance.

OIG Audit performed research and analysis to provide this informational report.

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LMHA and LBHA Overview

To deliver mental health services in Texas, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) contracts with 37 local mental health authorities (LMHAs) and two local behavioral health authorities (LBHAs). LMHAs and LBHAs have similar functions and provide similar services. Each LMHA and LBHA:

- Supports mental health services through planning, policy development, coordination, and resource allocation and development.
- Provides adults and children in the mental health priority population with clinically appropriate assessment, crisis, intensive, and comprehensive services.
- Provides chemical dependency services.
- Incorporates jail diversion strategies to reduce involvement of the criminal justice system.
- Is a Texas Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic.

Texas LMHAs and LBHAs reported to HHSC that they served 269,860 individuals with 3.4 million mental health encounters in 2024. Of these mental health encounters, the LMHAs and LBHAs completed 2,612,566 (76.21 percent) adult encounters and 815,584 (23.79 percent) child encounters for:

- 213,018 individual adults
- 51,163 individual children
- 5,679 individual who received both adult and child services during the year.

Of the 3.4 million mental health encounters the 39 authorities reported in 2024, 12.25 percent were for crisis services and the remaining 87.75 percent were for routine care services.