

Department of State Health Services Overview and Public Health Trends

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Commissioner

DSHS Overview



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

DSHS Functions



Preventing, detecting, and responding to infectious diseases



Leading public health and medical response during disasters and emergencies



Developing and implementing evidence-based public health interventions through data analysis and science



Reducing health risks and threats by establishing minimum standards for consumer protection



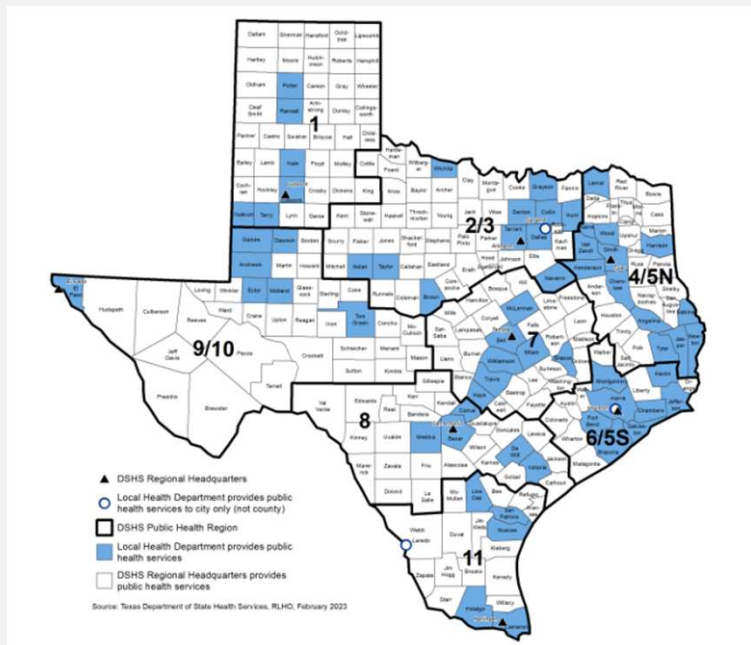
Promoting healthy living through disease and injury prevention

DSHS Programmatic Divisions

Divisions	Functions
Regional and Local Health Operations	Health Emergency Preparedness and Response; Eight Public Health Regions (PHRs); Texas Center for Infectious Disease; Office of Border Public Health
Consumer Protection	Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma Care Systems; Environmental Health; Food, Drug, and Medical Device Safety; Radiation Control
Infectious Disease Prevention	Immunizations; HIV/STD Prevention and Treatment; TB Prevention and Treatment
Public Health Laboratory	Laboratory Services including the Austin Laboratory and South Texas Laboratory
Community Health Improvement	Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries; Health Promotion and Chronic Disease; Injury Prevention; Maternal and Child Health; Screening and Services Coordination; Vital Statistics
Chief State Epidemiologist	Center for Health Statistics; Zoonosis; Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease; Healthcare-Acquired Infections

Regional and Local Health Operations

Public Health Coverage in Texas



Eight Public Health Regions

Provide direct clinical care and public health services for the entire state through field offices

Texas Center for Infectious Disease

Provides high quality medical care and professional education of providers for patients with hard to treat/cure tuberculosis (TB)

Health Emergency Preparedness and Response

Provides statewide public health and medical preparedness and response to natural and manmade disasters

Border Public Health

Coordinates and promotes health issues on the border between Texas and Mexico

Public Health Region Services

Epidemiology -
infectious and
chronic diseases

Public health services –
individual and
population-based

HIV/STD
detection, prevention
and education

Case management
services for special needs
children, pregnant women,
and at-risk children
on Medicaid

Immunizations

Oral health prevention
and surveillance

Public health
sanitation

Tuberculosis case
management,
screening, and
outbreak response

Consumer Protection



Food, Drug, and Meat Safety

Provides food safety regulation including for meat and milk, sets minimum requirements for food establishments, and is responsible for the state's drug safety programs

EMS and Trauma Systems

Regulates EMS providers and companies, oversees trauma system coordination and facility designations, and administratively supports the Medical Advisory Board

Environmental Hazards Programs

Reduces exposure to asbestos, lead-based paint, hazardous chemicals, abusable volatile chemicals, and hazardous products through education and regulatory efforts

Radiation Control Program

Prevents unnecessary radiation exposure through licensing and inspection of X-rays, mammography systems, and industrial radiation sources and through emergency response

Infectious Disease Prevention



HIV/STD Prevention and Treatment

Prevents the spread of HIV and other STDs through education, prevention counseling, screening and testing, as well as HIV medications for eligible individuals

Immunizations

Provides vaccine access to uninsured and underinsured children and adults, and is responsible for the state's vaccine-related data, including the Texas opt-in immunization registry

Tuberculosis Prevention and Treatment

Reduces the incidence of tuberculosis through education, access to care, and treatment

State Public Health Laboratory

- Serves as the Public Health Reference Laboratory for the state and as the largest-volume newborn screening testing program in the world
- 1.3 million annual samples submitted for testing, including tests related to:
 - 55 genetic disorders in newborns
 - Diabetes, lead screening, and anemia in children
 - Tuberculosis testing
 - Foodborne illnesses in foods, milk and other dairy
 - Rabies testing in animals
 - Respiratory and other high-consequence diseases
 - Antibiotic resistance testing
 - Radiation in drinking water and soil
 - HIV and other STD testing
 - Harmful chemicals and metals in drinking water
 - Mosquito borne diseases



Community Health Improvement



Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries

Maintains data, monitors, and investigates unusual disease occurrence as it pertains to birth defects, blood lead levels, cancer, and environmental-associated disease

Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Promotes education, prevention, and management of chronic disease like tobacco-associated conditions, cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, and Alzheimer's

Maternal and Child Health

Fosters data-driven, community-based, and coordinated systems of care to improve the health of mothers, babies, and children with special health care needs

Vital Statistics

Maintains and keeps secure all Texas vital records, including birth and death certificates and marriage and divorce records

Chief State Epidemiologist



Center for Health Statistics

Manages and disseminates health data, including vital events data, hospital data, healthcare workforce data and survey data on risk factors and disease prevalence.

Emerging and Acute Infectious Diseases

Works to prevent communicable diseases, including tracking trends in disease occurrence and detecting new and emerging diseases.

Zoonotic Diseases

Seeks to prevent the transmission of diseases from animals to humans through epidemiologic measures, intervention strategies, and educational efforts.

Healthcare-Associated Infections

Promotes safe and quality healthcare by promoting infection control within facility settings.

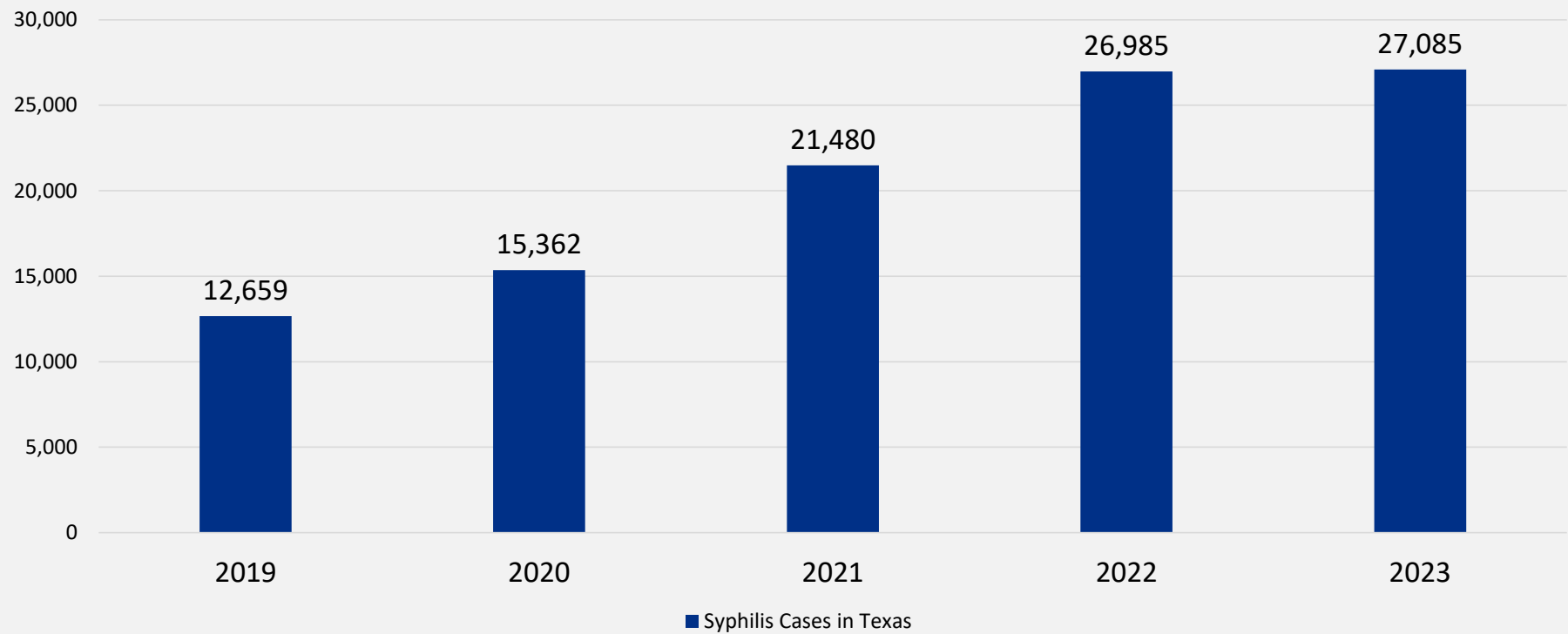
Select Public Health Issues



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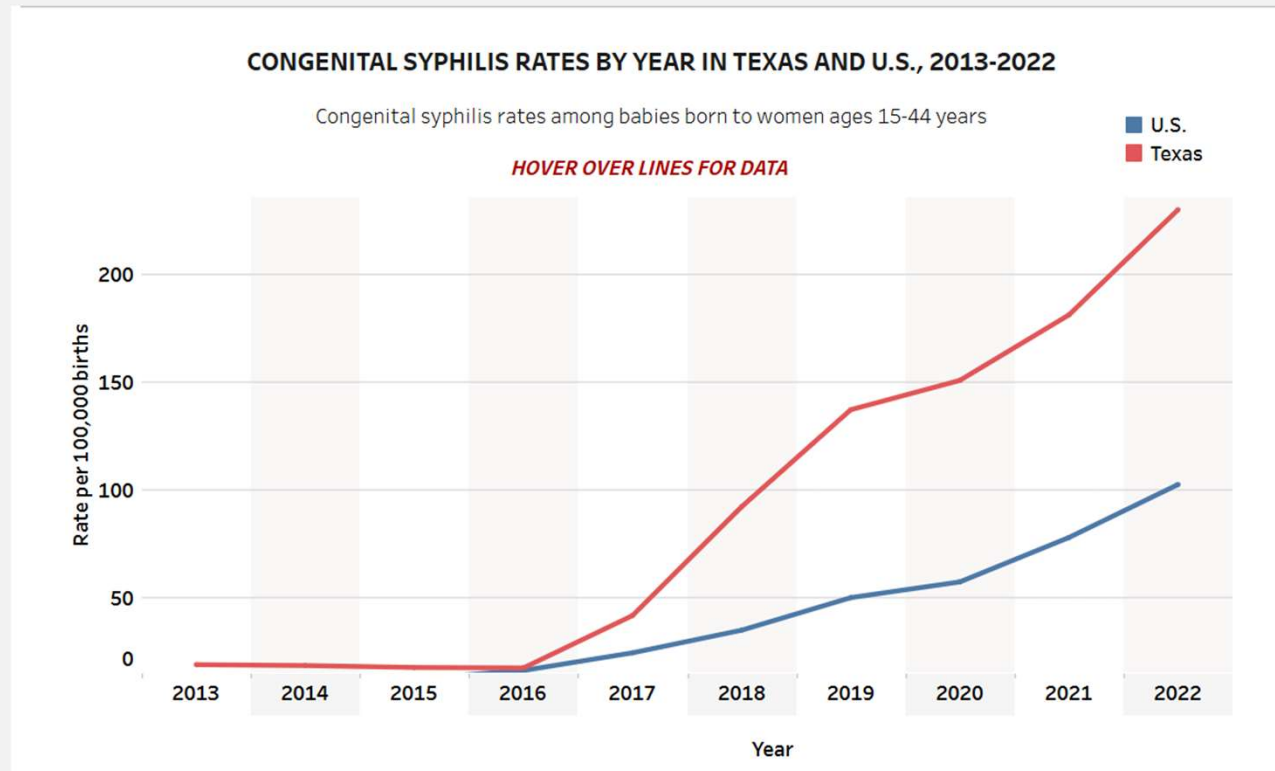
Texas Department of State
Health Services

Texas Syphilis Cases, 2019 - 2023



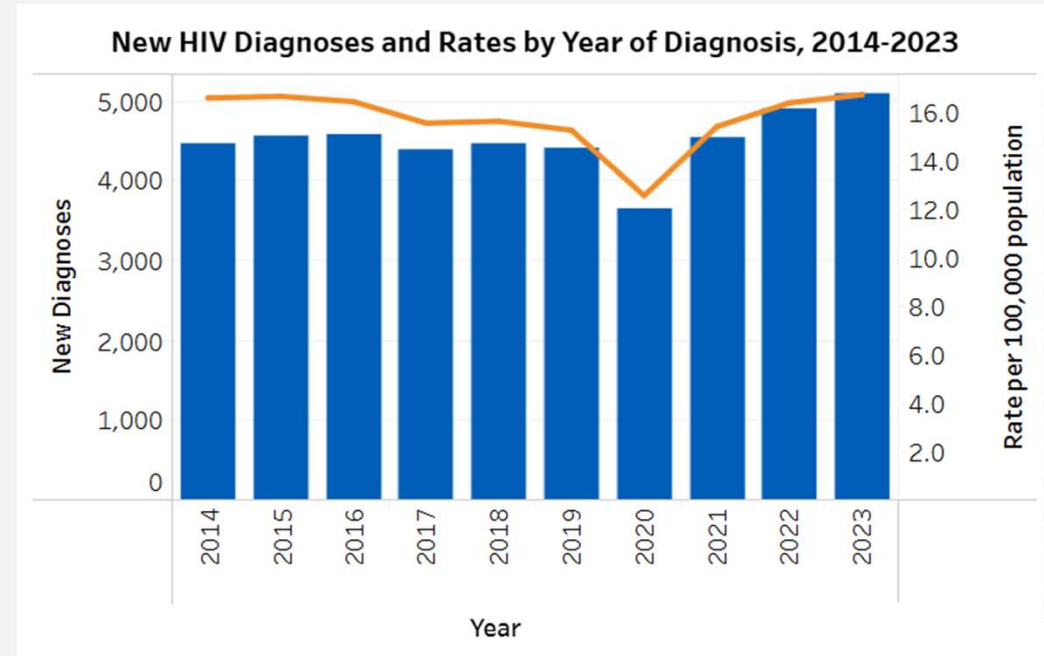
Congenital Syphilis Rates

- Congenital syphilis has been rising in Texas and the U.S. since 2016.
- However, Texas is experiencing congenital syphilis at a higher rate than the U.S.
- The Texas congenital syphilis rate was 230 per 100,000 births in 2022.
- In comparison, the U.S. rate was 102.5 per 100,000 births.
- In 2023, 930 babies were born with congenital syphilis.

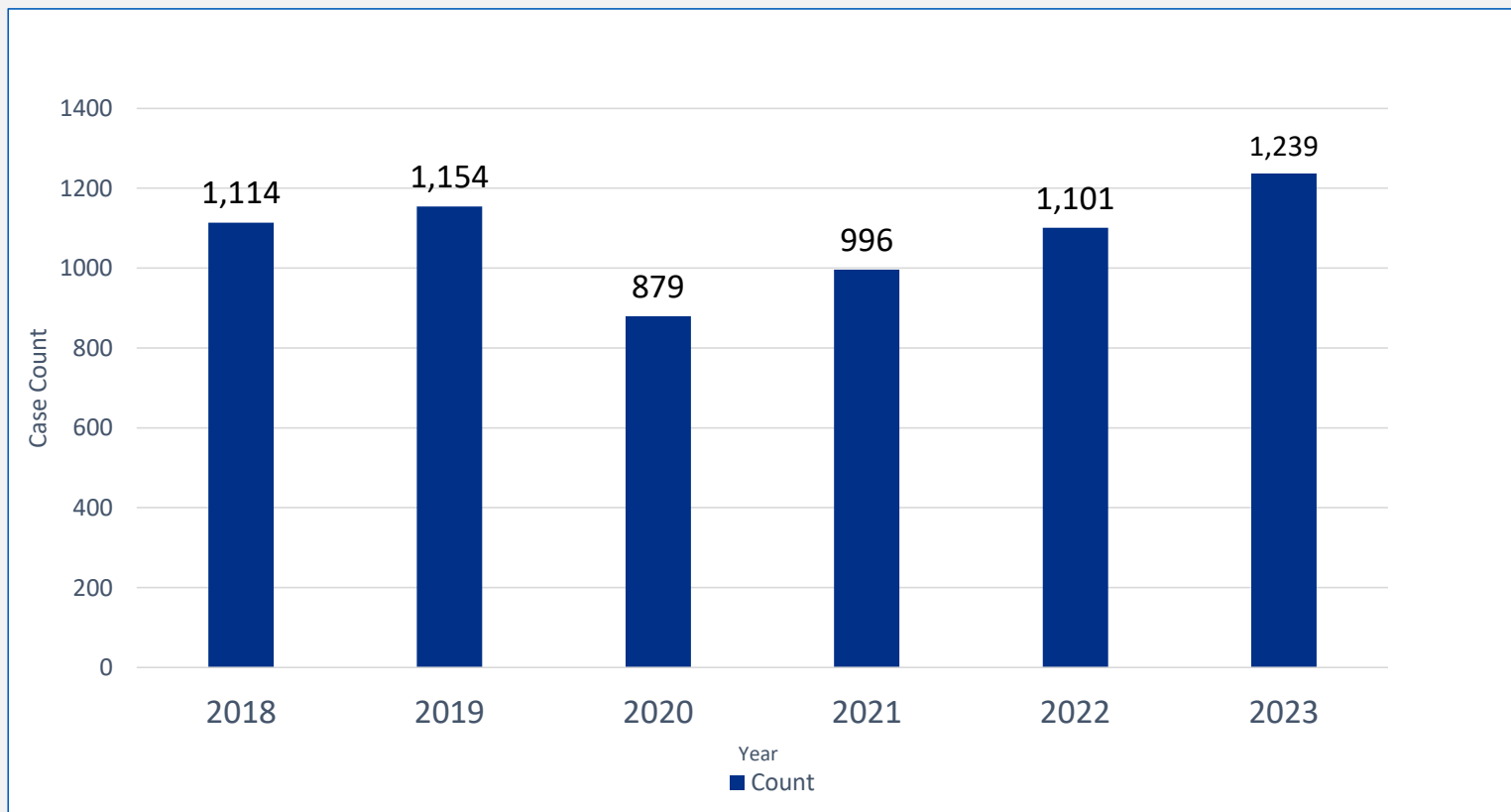


New HIV Diagnoses, 2014 - 2023

- In 2023, 114,221 Texans were living with HIV.
 - 64 percent had a suppressed viral load, meaning they cannot spread HIV.
- New HIV diagnoses have been slightly higher at about 4,800 from 2021 – 2023.
- The previous annual average before 2020 was 4,400.
- The case rate also continues to be a challenge with a case rate of about 16 per 100,000 each year.
- The exception of note is 2020 during the pandemic.

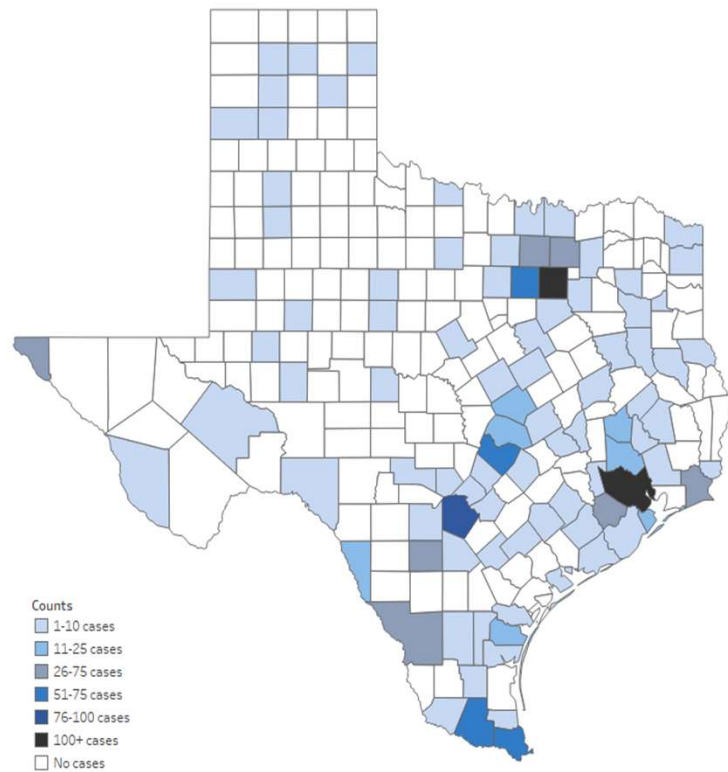


Annual Tuberculosis Diagnoses, 2018 - 2023



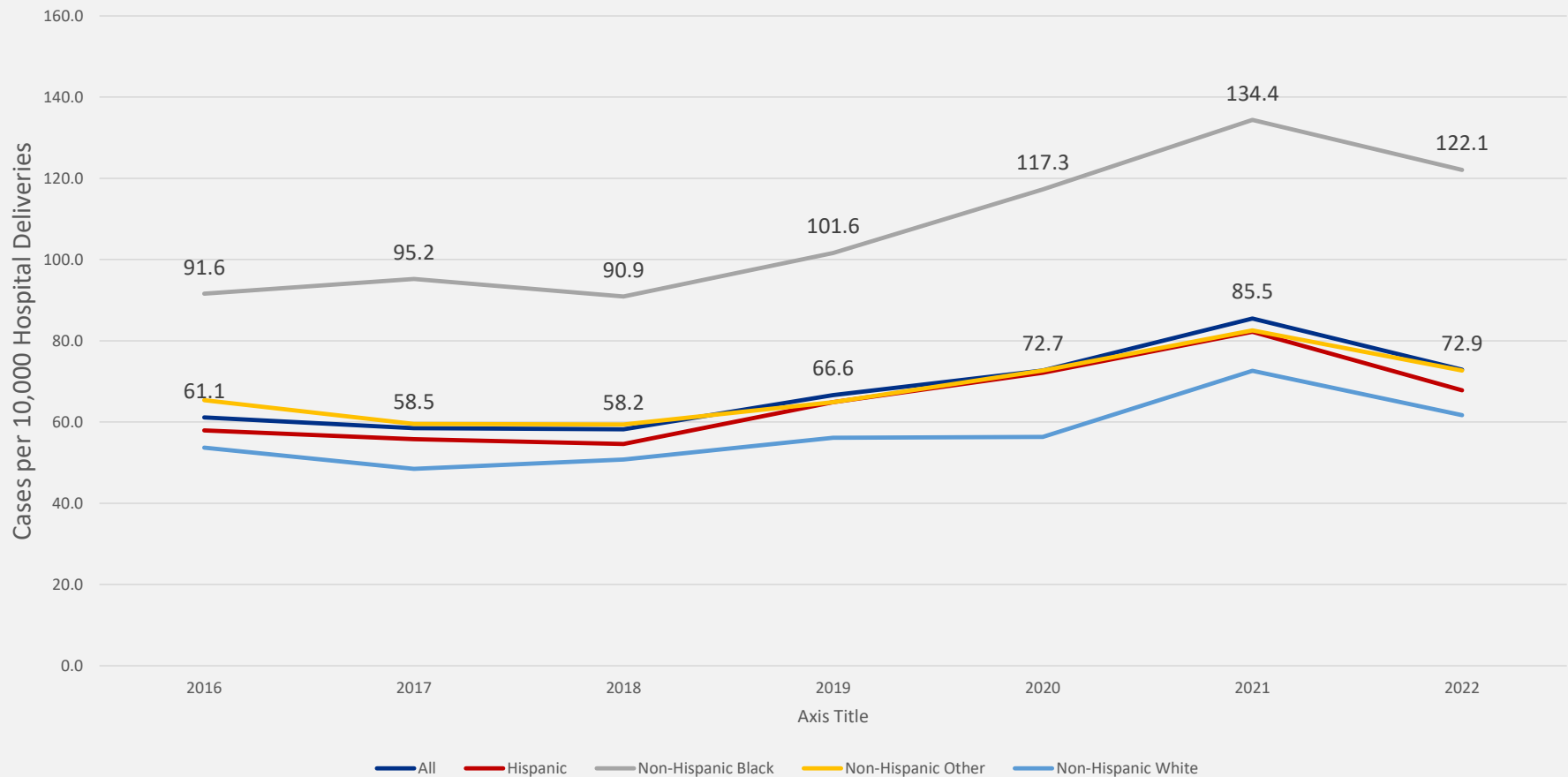
Geographic Distribution of Texas Tuberculosis Cases, 2023

Top 15 Counties by Case Count

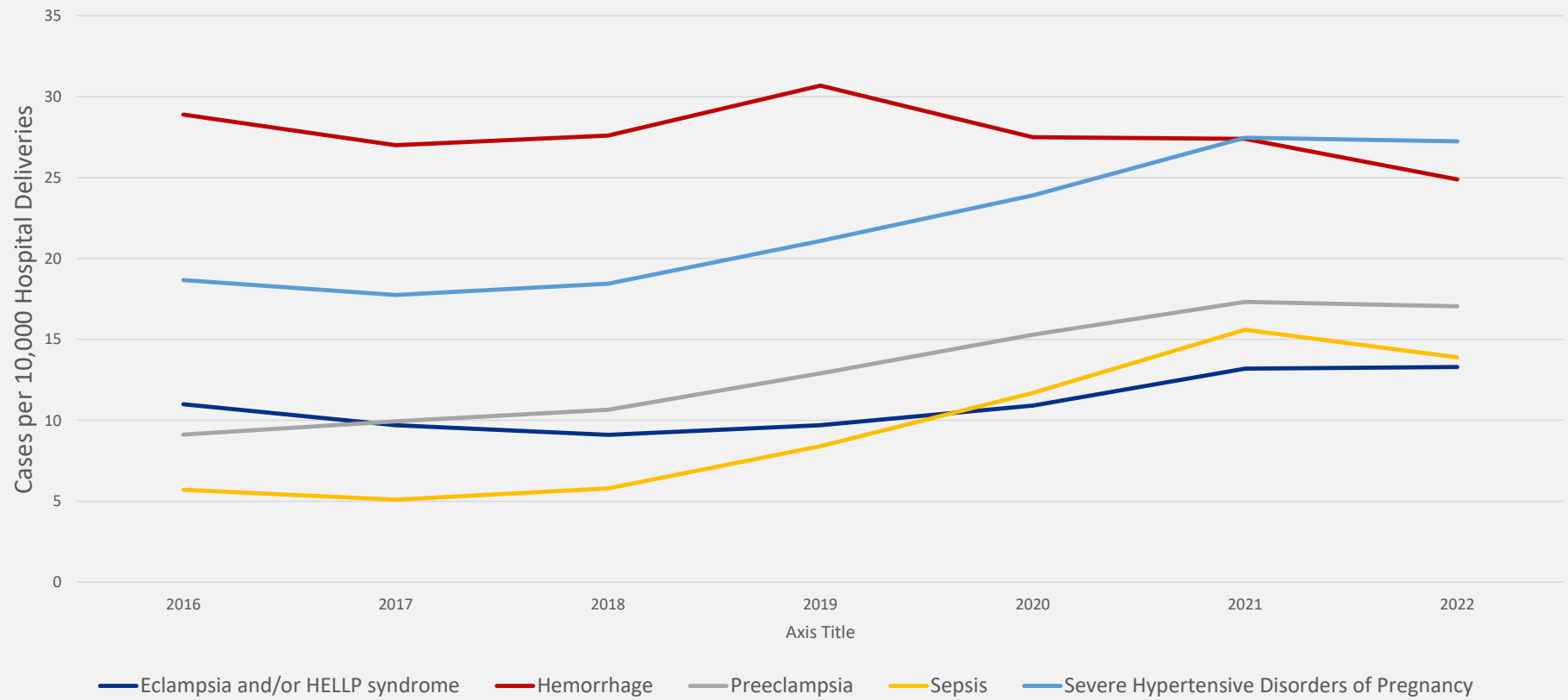


County	Case Count
Harris	269
Dallas	128
Bexar	79
Cameron	71
Tarrant	59
Hidalgo	55
Travis	50
Webb	42
El Paso	41
Frio	39
Collin	35
Denton	30
Fort Bend	30
Jefferson	24
Bell County	17
Texas	1239

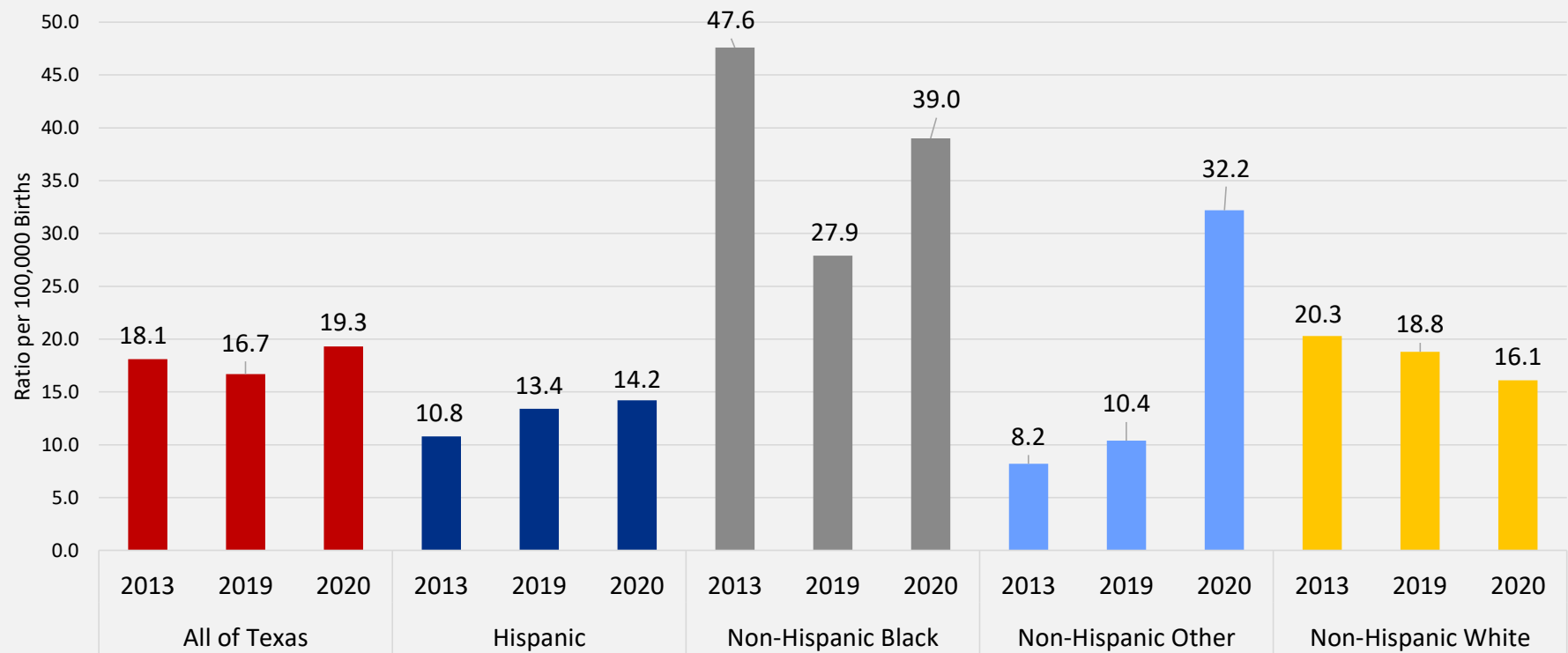
Severe Maternal Morbidity Rates, 2016 - 2022



Severe Maternal Morbidity Indicators, 2016 - 2022

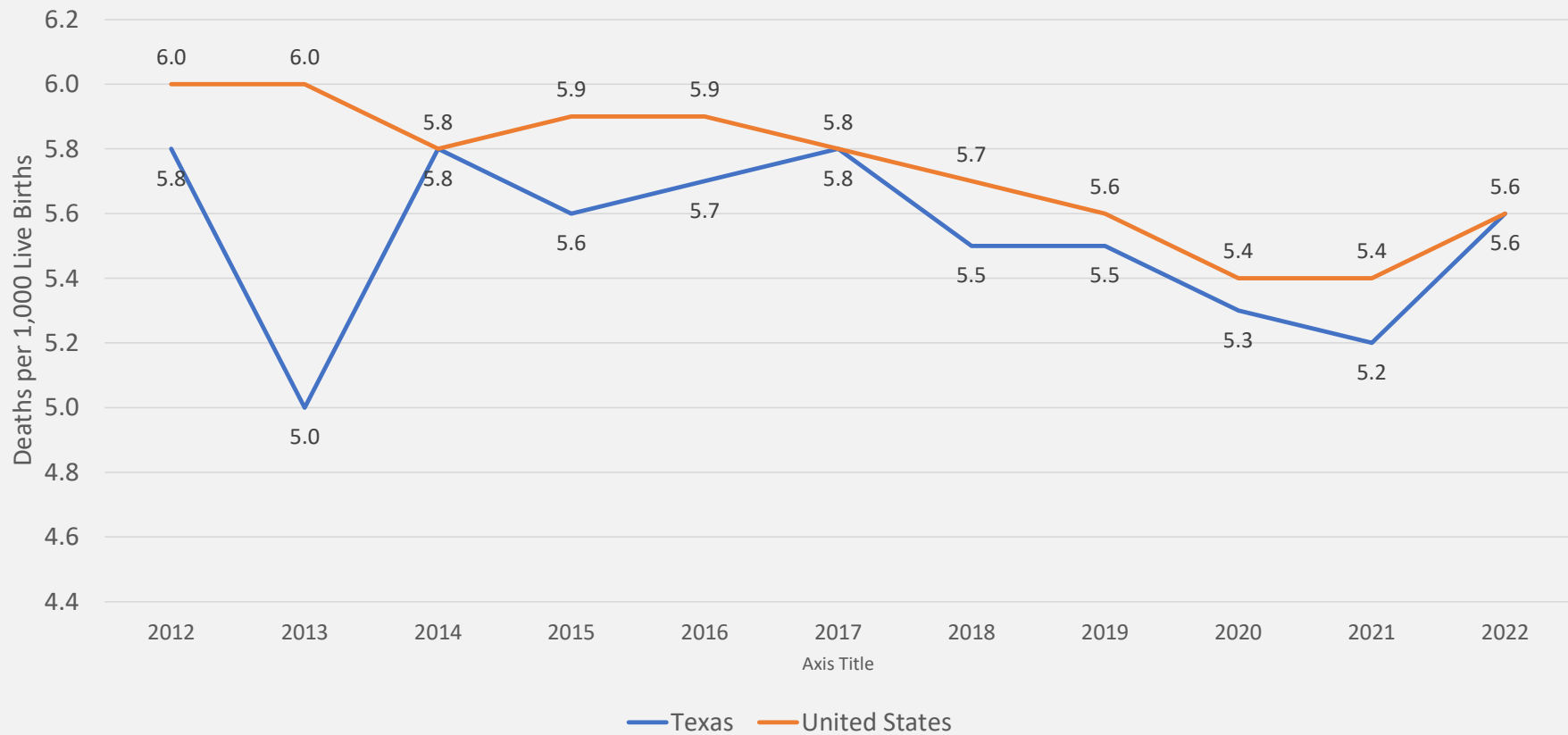


Pregnancy-Related Maternal Mortality Ratios



**Data excludes deaths due to COVID-19.*

Texas and U.S. Infant Mortality Rates, 2012 - 2022



Top Five Leading Causes of Infant Death in Texas, 2022

Top Five Leading Causes of Infant Death in Texas, 2022		
Rank	Texas Cause of Death	Texas Number of Deaths
1	Congenital malformations	543
2	Short gestation and low birth weight	291
3	Sudden infant death syndrome	182
4	Maternal complications of pregnancy	113
5	Unintentional injuries	103