

NEW NATIONAL REPORT DOCUMENTS INCREASED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES IN EMPLOYER SPONSORED HEALTH PLANS

A new study conducted by Milliman, Inc. covering 37 million employees and their families, commissioned by The Bowman Family Foundation, reflects dramatically worsened access to behavioral health care since a similar study was published two years ago.

- Despite the National Opioid and Suicide Crises, mental health and substance use treatment* together accounted for less than 3.5% of total health care spend, with substance use treatment ranging from 0.7 to 1% of that total over the 5 year period.
- Behavioral health access disparities escalated from 2013 to 2017 in all three categories of care examined: outpatient visits, inpatient facilities and outpatient facilities. Disparities nearly doubled for inpatient and outpatient facilities, rising from almost 3 to nearly 6 times more likely, when compared to medical/surgical facility use.
- Children were 10 times more likely to receive outpatient mental health care out of network compared to primary care visits, twice the disparity faced by adults.

INPATIENT FACILITY ACCESS

Higher out of network for behavioral health inpatient compared to medical/surgical.

	2013	2015	2017
NATIONAL	2.83 x	3.85 x	5.24 x
OKLAHOMA	2.83 x	4.23 x	6.54 x

Oklahoma out of network inpatient use rose from **2.83 to 6.54 times more likely**—25% higher than the national average.

OUTPATIENT FACILITY ACCESS

Higher out of network for behavioral health outpatient facility compared to medical/surgical.

	2013	2015	2017
NATIONAL	2.97 x	5.09 x	5.72 x
OKLAHOMA	3.95 x	8.35 x	8.96 x

Oklahoma out of network outpatient facility use rose from **3.95 to 8.96 times more likely**—more than 50% higher than the national average.

OFFICE VISIT REIMBURSEMENT

Higher office visit reimbursement for primary care compared to behavioral health.

	2013	2015	2017
NATIONAL	20.70%	20.80%	23.80%
OKLAHOMA	32.10%	18.50%	27.30%

Oklahoma behavioral health providers **received 27% less than other doctors** for similar billing codes.

OFFICE VISIT ACCESS

Higher out of network for behavioral health office visits compared to primary care.

	2013	2015	2017	
NATION	IAL 5.04 x	5.09 x	5.41 x	
OKLAH	OMA 2.92 x	2.88 x	4.21 x	

Oklahomans are **4 times more likely** to need to go out of network for behavioral health office visits compared to primary care.

^{*} Excludes behavioral health prescription drugs, which were 2% of total healthcare spending in 2017.