



# Asthma Care for Children in Philadelphia Medicaid

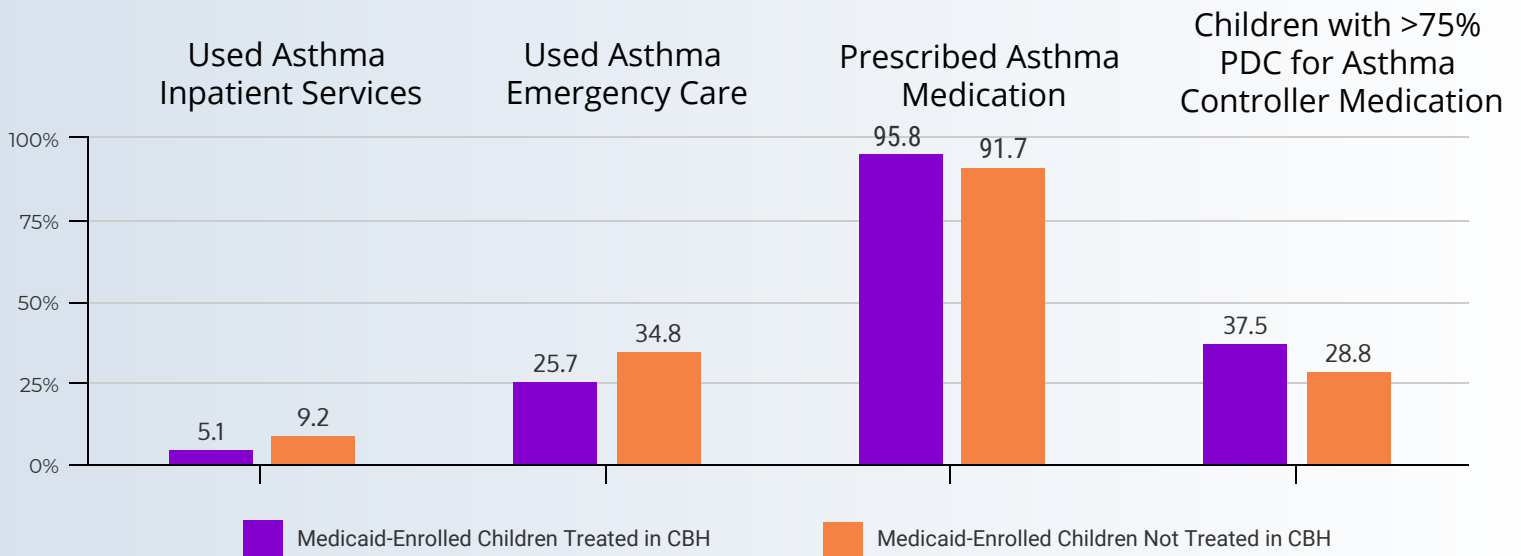
Children with asthma are more likely than other children to have behavioral health conditions like depression, anxiety, and ADHD. Children with both asthma and behavioral health conditions have more severe and persistent asthma symptoms.\*

Prevalence of childhood asthma in Philadelphia is nearly **Double** the national average

**5%** of Medicaid-enrolled children treated for behavioral health conditions through CBH also have asthma.

This study compares access to and quality of treatment for asthma among Medicaid-enrolled children who received behavioral health treatment through CBH with those who did not in 2017.

**Children who received care through CBH received equal to better asthma care and experienced equal to better outcomes, including fewer asthma-related inpatient and emergency room visits, compared to Medicaid-enrolled children who did not use CBH services.**



## Policy and Practice Implications

Children who received behavioral health services from Community Behavioral Health experienced equal or better asthma care, which reduced asthma-related emergency and acute care services. **These results suggest that carving out behavioral health can enhance care coordination efforts for patients with co-occurring physical and mental health conditions.** Asthma practitioners may see improved asthma care by referring children for behavioral health services when appropriate.

\*Goodwin, R. D., etl (2013). Severity and persistence of asthma and mental health: a birth cohort study. Psychological Medicine, 43(6), 10.1017/S0033291712001754.

Reference: Noll, L, Lareef I, Shen S, Rothbard A. "Asthma Treatment for Children and Youth with Behavioral Health Conditions", Unpublished Internal Report, 2015.

Study conducted on CY2017 Medicaid data, published November 2018