

## What's the Matter with McAllen, Texas?

### McAllen, TX vs. El Paso, TX

Medicare spending per enrollee in McAllen, TX: \$15,000

Medicare spending per enrollee in El Paso, TX: \$7,504

Medicare spending per enrollee (national average): ~\$7,000

Population of McAllen and El Paso: ~700,000

McAllen and El Paso have similar sized populations of non-English speakers, undocumented immigrants, and unemployed persons.

McAllen and El Paso have similar availability of medical technology

### McAllen Characteristics:

- Cardiovascular Disease Rates: lower than national average
- Smoking Rates: lower than national average
- Asthma Rates: lower than national average
- HIV Rates: lower than national average
- Infant Mortality: lower than national average
- Cancer Rates: lower than the national average

McAllen hospitals performed worse than El Paso hospitals on 21/23 quality indicators

Tort reform in Texas has limited the amount of money that can be won in malpractice cases

### McAllen v. El Paso

- McAllen had 50% more specialists' visits
- McAllen had 20% more abdominal ultrasounds
- McAllen had 30% more bone density studies
- McAllen had 60% more stress tests with EKGs
- McAllen had 200% more nerve-conduction studies (procedure related to carpal tunnel syndrome)
- McAllen had 550% more urine flow analysis
- McAllen had 50-66% more gallbladder surgeries, knee operations, breast biopsies, and bladder scopes
- McAllen had 2-3x the number of pacemaker implantations, implantable defibrillators, and cardiac by-pass surgeries
- McAllen had 5x the number of nurses' visits