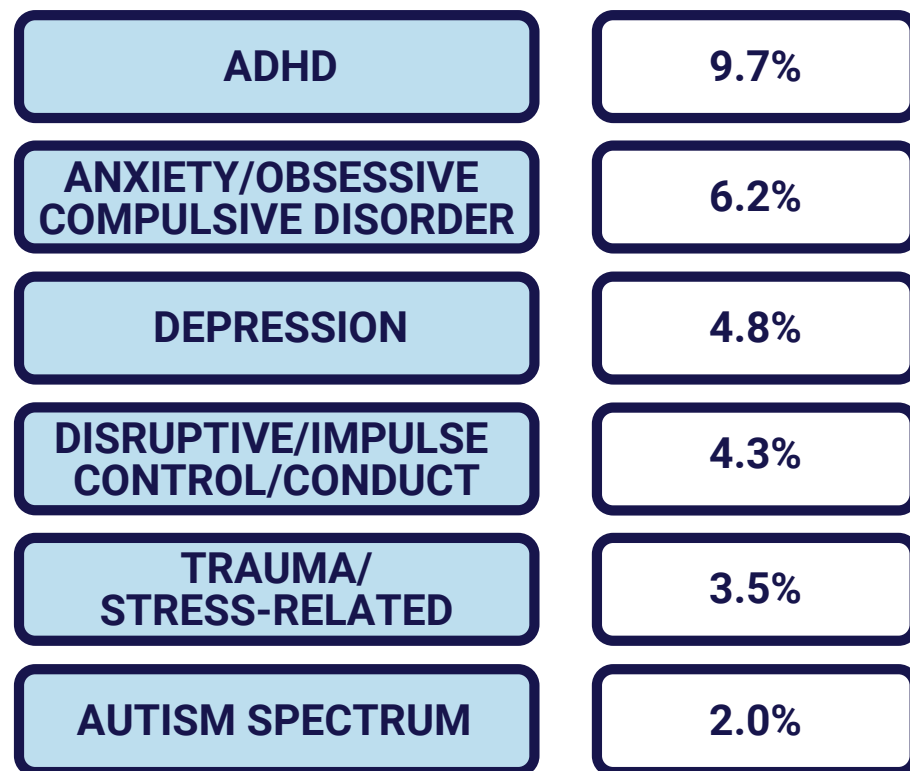


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH USE AMONG MEDICAID-ENROLLED YOUTH IN NORTH CAROLINA

Fact sheet developed by: Laura Benzing Duke University '21

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (BH) DIAGNOSES

Of the **1,350,101** Medicaid-enrolled youth during 2018-2019, approximately **341,000 (1 in 4)** had a BH diagnosis.

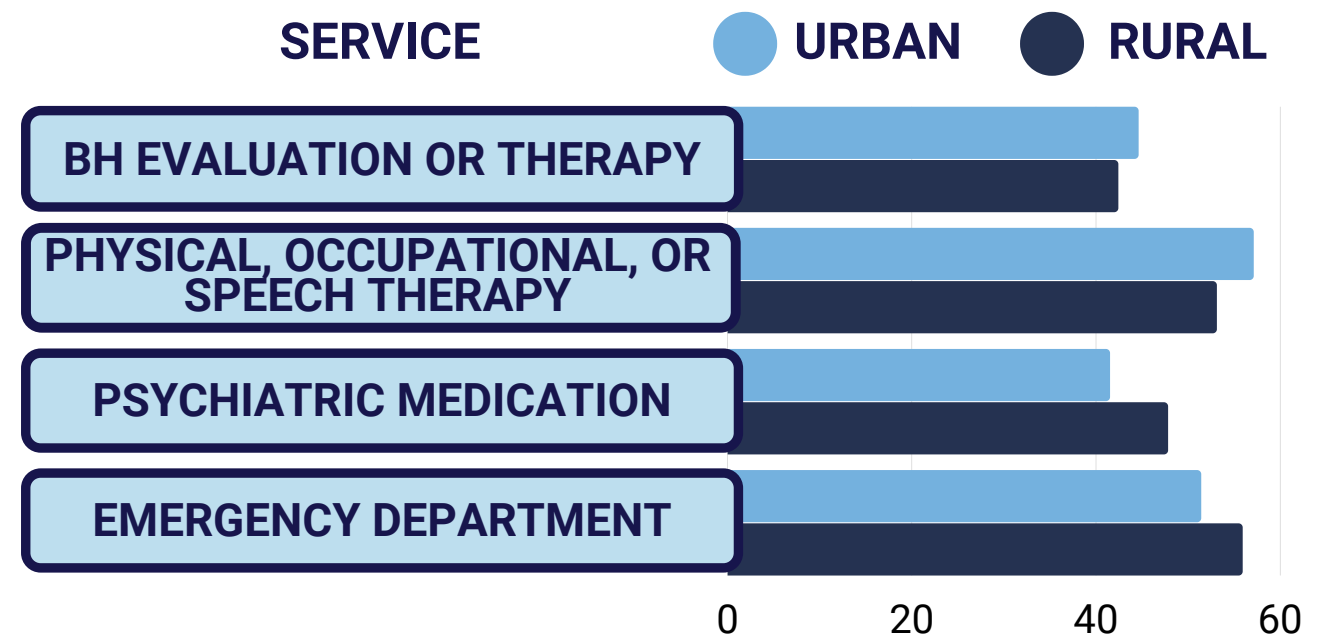


PERCENTAGES ARE BASED ON THE NUMBER OF YOUTH WITH A BH DIAGNOSIS OUT OF ALL MEDICAID-ENROLLED YOUTH

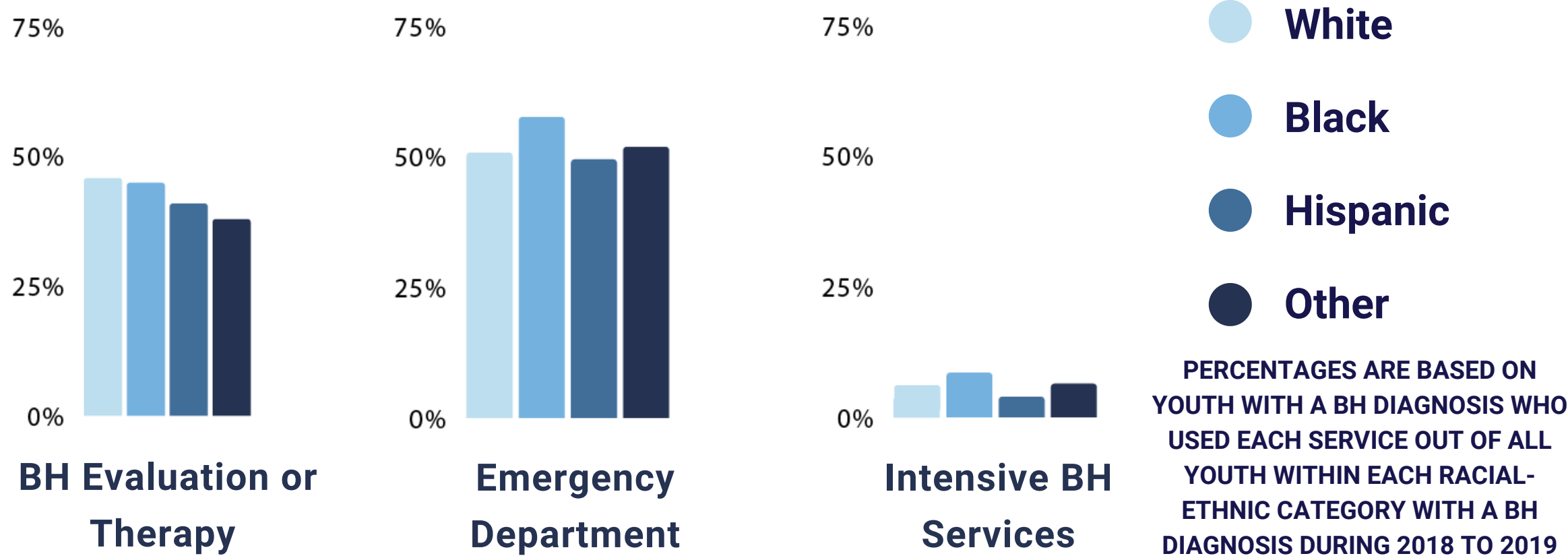
RURAL-URBAN DIVIDE

More **urban** youth received BH evaluation or therapy and physical, occupational, or speech therapy, while more **rural** youth received medication and used the emergency department.

PERCENT OF YOUTH WITH A BH DIAGNOSIS WHO RECEIVED SERVICE 2018-2019:



RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN BH SERVICES USED



IMPACT

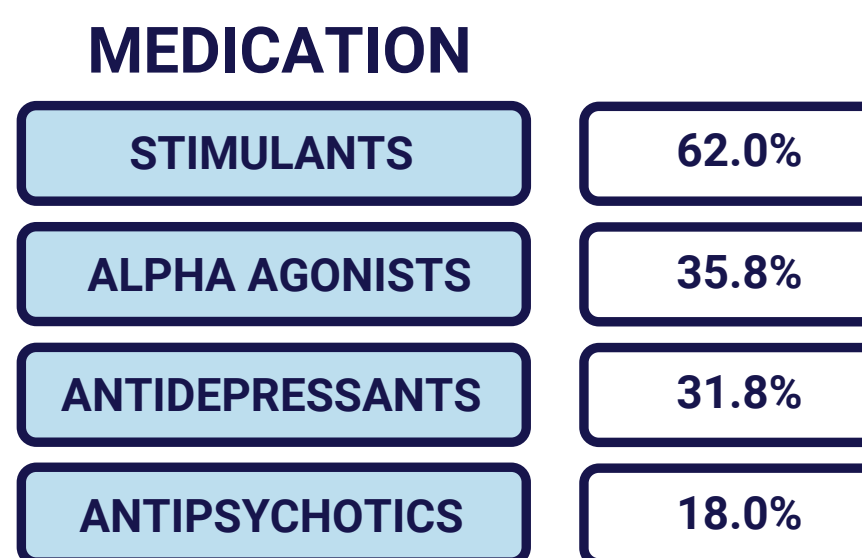
North Carolina's shift to Medicaid managed care in July 2021 may widen disparities. We identified gaps and inequities in behavioral health care that may help stakeholders understand and intervene on the underlying factors that contribute to these differences.

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATION USE

Of the roughly 1 million filled psychiatric medications written to Medicaid-enrolled youth during 2017 to 2018, **61%** were written by **non-psychiatric or pediatric providers.**

Of the 50,018 youth prescribed a psychiatric medication by a pediatric provider, **75%** were prescribed a **stimulant** while only **15%** were prescribed an **antidepressant.**

1 in 10 youth seen by a psychiatric, pediatric, family medicine, or primary care PA/NP provider received a psychiatric prescription.



PERCENTAGES ARE BASED ON YOUTH WHO RECEIVED EACH PRESCRIPTION TYPE OUT OF ALL YOUTH WHO RECEIVED A PSYCHIATRIC PRESCRIPTION



Hispanic youth were **74% less likely** to receive psychiatric medication compared to non-Hispanic youth.

Black youth were **37% less likely** to receive a psychiatric medication compared to White youth.

*All prescription numbers are based on filled prescriptions

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