

LIVEABLE CITY PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2004

For Information Contact
Mark Yznaga 657-4762

LIVEABLE CITY STUDY FINDS 34,400 TRAVIS COUNTY PATIENT VISITS OUTSIDE THE CITY TO BRACKENRIDGE EMERGENCY ROOM OVER LAST FIVE YEARS

(Austin) Liveable City, a nonprofit organization working to improve quality of life, today released findings of patient visits to the Brackenridge Hospital Emergency Room for in-city and out-of-city Travis County residents. The study breaks down emergency room patient visits at Brackenridge Hospital by zip code and reviews the number of EMS dispatches outside of the City of Austin. The zip code data does not include patient visits to the Children's Hospital of Austin.

Robin Rather, Chair of the Board of Liveable City said, "Most of the discussion about the health care district so far has been about political or financial issues. That's why Liveable City decided to take a look at the human side. The study underscores the fact that if you or your neighbor has a heart attack, or your child has a life threatening accident, emergency or trauma care is essential regardless if you live in the Central City, Circle C, or Lago Vista."

The study shows that people in every neighborhood across Travis County use the Brackenridge Hospital Emergency Room. Liveable City found that Travis County residents outside the City of Austin visited the Brackenridge Emergency Room an average of 6,880 times a year or 34,402 times over the last five years (Table 1).

By the time it takes to watch one episode of the TV drama, "E.R.", another Travis County resident living outside the City visited the real emergency room at Brack. This means on average that every hour and fifteen minutes a Travis County resident living outside the City of Austin visited the emergency room.

Many of these visits are urgent enough to involve EMS. EMS ambulances were dispatched in Travis County outside the City of Austin an average of 10,974 times over the last four years. In 2003 alone, EMS ambulances were dispatched 11,713 times outside the City to assist with medical emergencies while there have been 5,789 EMS dispatches so far in 2004 (Table 2).

The study shows every zip code across Travis County sent residents to the Brackenridge Emergency Room (Table 4). An examination of Emergency Room Patients by zip code shows, for example, that last year the Lakeway zip code 78734 sent 273 patients or one patient three out of every four days. In Pflugerville (78660) last year, 976 patients or nearly three people a day went to the emergency room while Circle C (78749) sent 491 people in 2003 (Table 3).

The Liveable City study includes the number of emergency room patients visits to Brackenridge Hospital for every zip code in Travis County in and out of the City (Table 4).

Rather said, "Our study shows that the emergency room is crucial to people of Travis County both in and outside the City. When you need trauma care, the last thing you want to worry about is whether the services are available or whether you're going to be diverted to another city. The message from these numbers is that anyone may need trauma care at Brackenridge at some point in their lives and supporting the Hospital District is the best way to make sure it's there when we need it."

The Liveable City Board of Directors urges every resident of Travis County to support the Travis County Healthcare District proposal this Saturday.

For more information about Liveable City go to www.liveablecity.org.

Attached Tables:

Table 1: Brackenridge Emergency Room Visits Inside and Outside City of Austin, but within Travis County

Table 2: EMS Responses Outside of the City of Austin, but within Travis County

Table 3: Brackenridge Emergency Room Patient Visits by Selected Zip Codes

Table 4: Brackenridge Emergency Room Patient Visits by Travis County Zip Codes

Table 1: Brackenridge Emergency Room Visits Inside And Outside City of Austin, but within Travis County

Fiscal Year Visits % of Total	Austin	Travis County
FY99 ER Visits	45,873	5,400
FY00 ER Visits	49,222	5,961
FY01 ER Visits	46,034	7,409
FY02 ER Visits	46,450	7,941
FY03 ER Visits	52,271	7,691

Source: Seton Health Care Network, Media and Community Relations

Table 2: EMS Responses Outside of the City of Austin, but within Travis County

Fiscal Year	# of EMS Responses
2000	9,843
2001	10,990
2002	11,351
2003	11,713
2004 (to date)	5,789

Source: Community Care Services Department, City of Austin www.ci.austin.tx.us/communitycare/

Table 3: Brackenridge Emergency Room Patient Visits by Selected Zip Codes

Community ¹	Zip Code ¹	1999 Patients	2000 Patients	2001 Patients	2002 Patients	2003 Patients	Total Patients
Anderson Mill	78750	187	166	230	189	252	1024
Bee Caves	78733	105	119	112	102	120	557
Circle C	78749	299	428	421	423	491	2062
Jollyville	78729	214	259	213	257	306	1249
Lago Vista, Jonestown	78645	166	137	185	149	135	772
Lakeway	78734	201	302	282	353	273	1411
Manor	78753	2743	3009	3144	3588	4197	16681
Oak Hill	78735	132	184	181	164	230	891
	78736	132	154	122	98	126	633
	78749	299	428	421	423	491	2062
Onion Creek	78747	184	209	250	291	428	1362
Pflugerville	78660	502	632	741	833	976	3684
Wells Branch	78728	241	286	286	369	523	1705
West Lake, Rollingwood	78746	277	257	316	322	272	1444

¹SBC Yellow Page Area Zip Code Map, December 2003

Source: Seton Health Care Network, Media and Community Relations

**Table 4: Brackenridge Hospital Emergency Room Patient Visits
by Travis County Zip Codes**

Zip Code	1999 Patients	2000 Patients	2001 Patients	2002 Patients	2003 Patients	Total Patients
78610*	266	328	381	358	442	1,775
78615*	16	31	26	21	17	111
78617*	1,703	1,785	1,936	2,210	2,535	10,169
78620*	99	143	137	136	146	661
78621*	494	540	670	616	660	2,981
78641*	274	282	298	307	305	1,466
78645	166	137	185	149	135	772
78653*	396	442	452	480	552	2,321
78654	91	110	127	112	114	553
78660	502	632	741	833	976	3,684
78669	102	125	121	112	139	599
78701	3,583	2,985	2,231	2,346	1,920	13,064
78702	5,891	6,253	6,566	6,317	6,306	31,333
78703	456	498	505	494	421	2,375
78704	3,685	3,815	3,585	3,670	3,645	18,400
78705	1,173	1,191	946	891	878	5,079
78712	9	6	16	14	6	51
78719	182	216	201	194	221	1,014
78721	2,230	2,490	2,435	2,407	2,406	11,969
78722	623	631	600	524	566	2,944
78723	3,500	3,916	3,842	3,816	4,203	19,276
78724	1,736	1,856	1,957	2,201	2,169	9,919
78725	274	307	321	317	352	1,571
78726	37	47	67	89	119	359
78727	306	330	340	344	354	1,674
78728	241	286	286	369	523	1,705
78729	214	259	213	257	306	1,249
78730	17	33	26	45	42	164
78731	231	283	240	245	241	1,240
78732	32	53	47	53	67	252
78733	105	119	112	102	120	557
78734	201	302	282	353	273	1,411
78735	132	184	181	164	230	891
78736	132	154	122	98	126	633
78737*	87	105	86	90	83	451
78738	11	16	31	29	39	126
78739*	71	64	61	52	63	311
78741	4,812	5,201	5,256	5,402	5,731	26,401
78742	168	161	183	175	137	824

Zip Code	1999 Patients	2000 Patients	2001 Patients	2002 Patients	2003 Patients	Total Patients
78744	2,678	3,210	3,152	2,380	3,721	15,140
78745	2,885	3,050	3,146	3,189	3,472	15,741
78746	277	257	316	322	272	1,444
78747	184	209	250	291	428	1,362
78748	600	754	768	818	865	3,805
78749	299	428	421	423	491	2,062
78750	187	166	230	189	252	1,024
78752	2,087	2,199	2,328	2,478	2,752	11,844
78753	2,743	3,009	3,144	3,588	4,197	16,681
78756	284	353	367	373	405	1,782
78757	709	744	672	797	789	3,711
78758	2,065	2,176	2,323	2,568	2,740	11,872
78759	416	395	394	373	503	2,082

*Zip Codes partially in Travis County

Source: Seton Health Care Network, Media and Community Relations