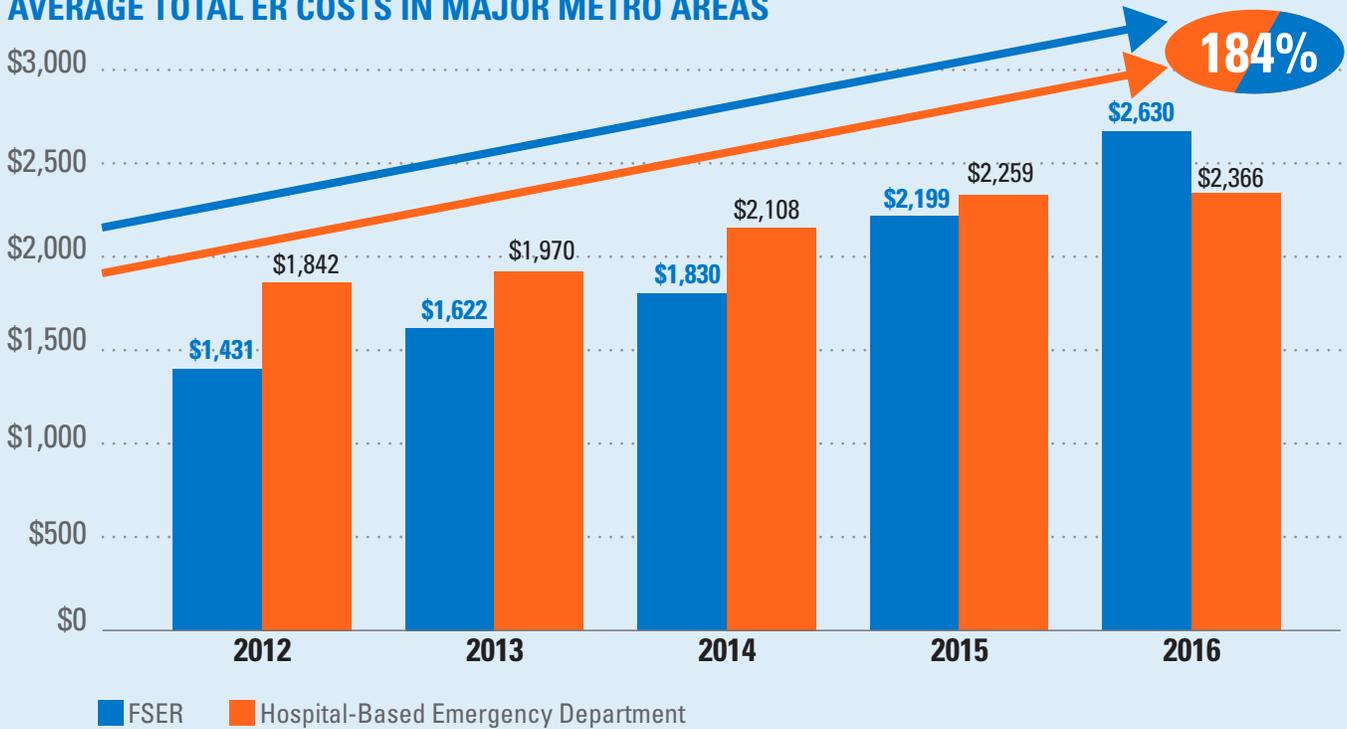




# Freestanding ERs: Astronomical costs tell the real story

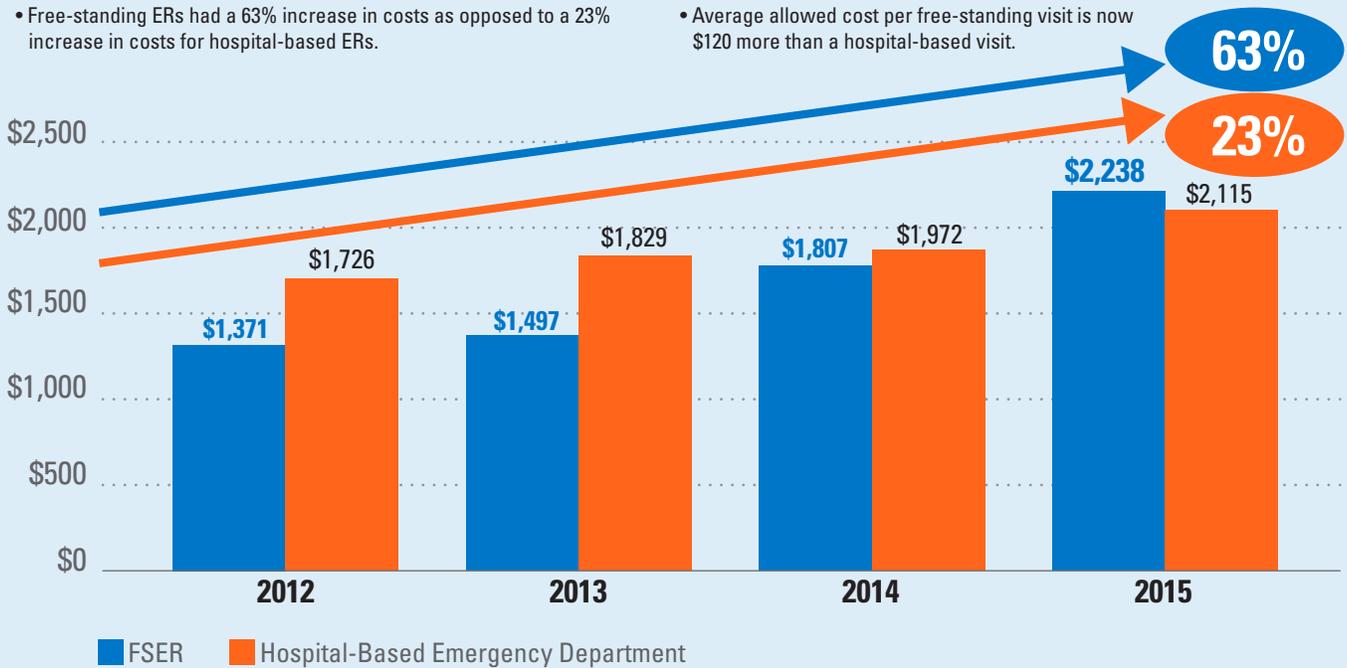
## AVERAGE TOTAL ER COSTS IN MAJOR METRO AREAS



## AVERAGE TOTAL ER COSTS STATEWIDE

- Free-standing ERs had a 63% increase in costs as opposed to a 23% increase in costs for hospital-based ERs.

- Average allowed cost per free-standing visit is now \$120 more than a hospital-based visit.



# Where you go Matters

The chart below illustrates the out-of-pocket costs consumers face when using each type of care.



## Increasing out of pocket costs for patients



## Legislation Passed to Protect Texas Health Care Consumers

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) is committed to the continual pursuit of making the health care system work. The following new reforms demonstrate solid progress in protecting our members, and all Texas health care consumers. It's part of the work BCBSTX has been doing for nearly 90 years to provide our members access to quality, cost-effective health care. Our members, and indeed Texans, should not expect, nor accept, anything less.

- **Senate Bill 507** expanded mediation protections to include freestanding emergency rooms as well as other out-of-network emergency providers to all PPO insurance plan holders.
- **House Bill 3276** requires independent freestanding ERs to be more transparent when it comes to their insurance network status.

<sup>1</sup> Medical Practice Pulse Report 2009, Press Ganey Associates

<sup>2</sup> Urgent Care Benchmarking Study Results. Journal of Urgent Care Medicine, January 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Emergency Department Pulse Report 2010 Patient Perspectives on American Health Care. Press Ganey Associates.

Note: The relative costs described here are for independently contracted network providers.

Your costs for out-of-network providers may be significantly higher. Wait times described are just estimates.