



November 2012

Emergency Department Visits for Adults and Children in Texas, 2010

Overview:

A total of 1,197,727 Emergency Department (ED) visits were reported for 2010 to the Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) at The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Center for Health Statistics (CHS). These visits include only those patients that were admitted to the hospital and do not include out-patient ED visits or visits to free-standing emergency clinics.

The ED visit and hospitalization cases for this report are from the THCIC Inpatient Public Use Data File (IP-PUDF), including the base data file with demographics and the revenue codes "0450-0459" from the charges file. Births or maternal ED visits (CMS DRG '795' or an APR MDC of '14') are excluded from this report. Currently THCIC does not collect all ED out-patient visits, and out-patient ED visits are not included here.

A review of the THCIC inpatient data for ED visits demonstrated that the pediatric ED visits comprised 7.9%, (94,799 visits), while 92.1% were adult visits (1,102,928). The pediatric visits include those children less than 18 years of age; while adult ED visits include those persons age 18 and above.

All of these ED visits resulted in hospitalizations; however, 15% of these were for one day only. The average (mean) length of stay for hospitalizations admitted through the ED was for 5 days, with an average of 3.7 days for a child and 5.1 days for an adult. The ED visit typically implies a potentially serious medical condition that may be life threatening. The mortality rate for patients admitted through the ED was 2.6% (31,300 deaths) overall. Of the ED related deaths,

less than 1% of the pediatric ED visits resulted in death (316) and of the 1,102,928 adult visits, 30,984 (2.8%) resulted in death.

In 2010, the total ED visit charges were over 48 billion dollars (\$48,839,276,722). The average charge per visit, with hospitalization, was \$40,777. The average charge per pediatric ED visit was \$28,895, while the average charge for an adult ED visit was higher, at \$41,798.

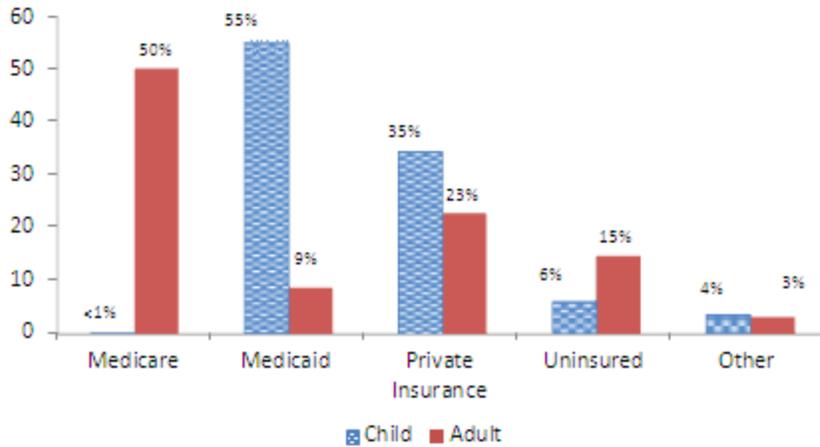
Payers for ED Visits in Texas

The private insurance companies paid roughly one-third of the pediatric ED visits and one-fourth of the adult visits. The main payers were governmental sources with Medicaid paying for more than half of all pediatric visits and Medicare paying for half of all adult visits. These figures generally increase since some of the uninsured patients become eligible for benefits from Medicaid or Medicare after the data are reported to the state (anywhere from 2 months to 2 years). Figure 1 (below) details the percentages of hospital ED visits by payer type for both pediatric and adult. The uninsured category includes any self-pay, charity, indigent or unknown (categories 09 and ZZ from the ANSI 837 Institutional and Professional Guides, and the THCIC User Manual) payment source, while the other category includes payers that are not one of the major categories already delineated (VA, automobile, Title V, disability, workers compensation, liability or other insurance).

Pediatric ED visits were paid by Medicaid (55.2%) primarily, with Private Insurance paying for 34.6% of pediatric visits. Additionally, 6.2% of pediatric visits were uninsured, while 3.7% had other payer types. A small percentage reported Medicare as the payer (0.2%).

The adult ED visits reported Medicare as the main payer (50.3%), with private insurance paying for 22.9% of the adult visits. Uninsured adult visits represented 14.8% of the ED visits, while 8.8% reported Medicaid as the payer and 3.3% had other payer types.

Figure 1. Texas Emergency Department Visits, Child/Adult, Percentage by Payer* 2010



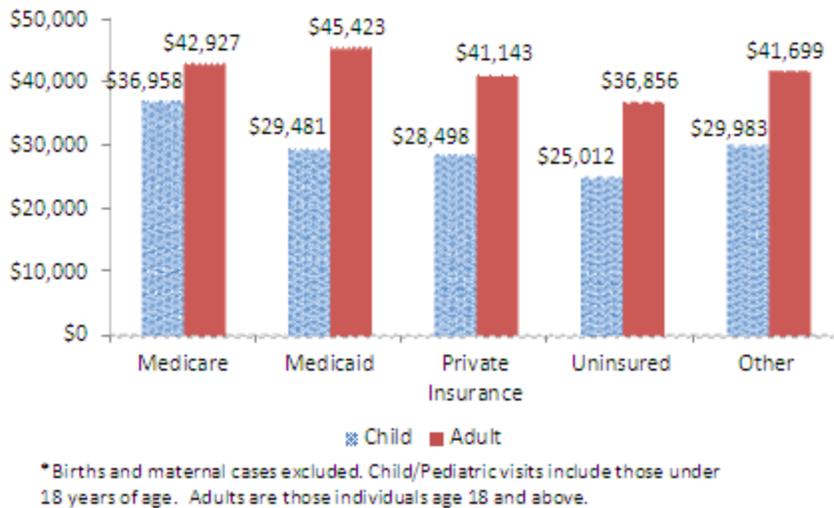
*Births and maternal cases excluded. Child/Pediatric visits include those under 18 years of age. Adults are those individuals age 18 and above.

Charges

Figure 2 demonstrates the comparison of average hospital charge by payer, with pediatric versus adult average hospital charge. The charges per payer for pediatric ED visits demonstrated that Medicare payments had the highest average charge, (\$36,958 with only 202 patients), followed by Medicaid (\$29,481). Other payer type (\$29,982) ranked third, private insurance ranked fourth (\$28,498) for average charges per payer for ED visit/hospitalizations and uninsured (\$25,012) ranked as fourth.

For adult ED visits, the average charges per payer for ED visit/hospitalizations demonstrated the highest average charge for Medicaid (\$45,423) with Medicare following (\$42,927) as second. Other payer type (\$41,699) ranked third, private insurance ranked fourth (\$41,143) and uninsured (\$36,856) ranked fifth for the average charges per payer for ED visit/hospitalizations (see Figure 2 below).

Figure 2. Emergency Department Mean Charge per visit for Child/Adult, by Payer* 2010



Major Diagnoses for Pediatric ED Visits

The leading diagnoses for pediatric ED visits with hospitalization in 2010, listed by rank, are presented in Table 1 below. The most prevalent pediatric diagnoses are mainly respiratory-related (pneumonia and acute bronchitis), followed by appendicitis, asthma and skin infections for the top five conditions.

Table 1. The Top Ten Diagnoses from Pediatric ED Visits, Texas, 2010*

Rank	Diagnosis	Number of Visits	%
1	Pneumonia (except tuberculosis)	8,732	9.2
2	Acute bronchitis	7,653	8.1
3	Appendicitis	6,624	7.0
4	Asthma	6,355	6.7
5	Skin, tissue infections	4,925	5.2
6	Fluid & electrolyte disorders	2,981	3.1
7	Urinary tract infections	2,960	3.1
8	Other perinatal conditions	2,923	3.1
9	Epilepsy, convulsions	2,805	3.0
10	Mood disorders	2,050	2.2

*Births and maternal cases are excluded; Pediatric visits include those less than 18 years of age.

Major Diagnoses for Adult ED Visits

The leading diagnoses for adult ED visits with hospitalization in 2010, by rank, are presented in Table 2. Interestingly, the most prevalent adult ED diagnosis was septicemia, followed closely by pneumonia and congestive heart failure (non- hypertensive). Urinary tract infections ranked 4th and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) was the 5th leading diagnosis for adult visits to the ED.

Table 2. The Top Ten Diagnoses from Adult ED Visits, Texas, 2010*

Rank	Diagnosis	Number of Visits	%
1	Septicemia (not in labor)	50,175	4.5
2	Pneumonia (non TB or STD related)	49,203	4.5
3	Congestive Heart Failure (non-hypertensive)	48,291	4.4
4	Urinary tract infections	34,136	3.1
5	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchiectasis	33,410	3.0
6	Acute cerebrovascular disease	31,828	2.9
7	Cardiac dysrhythmias	30,668	2.8
8	Acute myocardial infarction	30,121	2.7
9	Diabetes mellitus, with complications	30,036	2.7
10	Skin and subcutaneous tissue infections	29,959	2.7

*Births and maternal cases are excluded; Adult visits include those age 18 or above.