



STATISTICAL BRIEF

December 2009

Hospital Stays for Children, 2008

In 2008, about one out of every five discharges from Texas hospitals was for children 17 years and younger; the majority of these were newborn infants.

Characteristics of hospital stays for children

Table 1 provides information on the hospitalization of children compared to all hospital stays. There were 608,244 hospital stays for children 17 years or younger, comprising 20.8 percent of all hospitalizations. The total hospital charges for children's stays were \$9.8 billions, about 11 percent of the total hospital charges for all patients. The mean charges per stay for children's hospitalizations were \$16,180, about half as much as the overall mean charges. The mean length of stay for children's hospitalizations was significantly shorter than the overall mean length of stay – 4.2 days versus 5.3 days. Only 15.6 percent of children in the hospital were admitted through the emergency department, compared with 39.7 percent overall. The vast majority of children experienced routine discharges compared to about three out of four discharges in general. Children experienced significantly fewer discharges to home health care or against medical advice. The in-hospital death rate for children was only 0.4 percent, compared with 1.8 percent overall.

Table 1. Characteristics of hospital stays for children, compared to all hospital stays, 2008

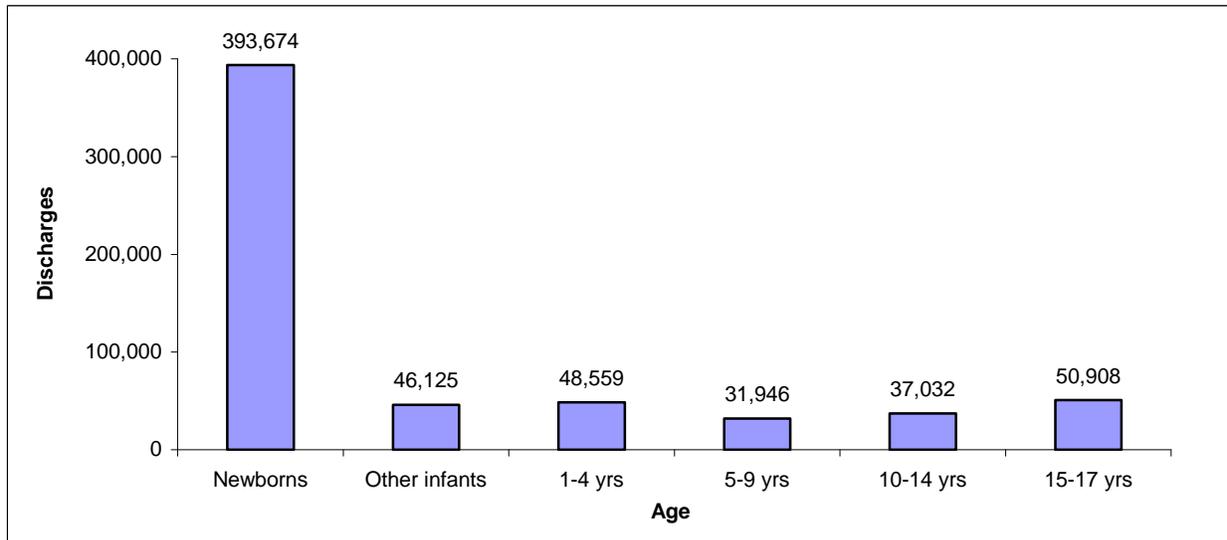
	Children, 17 years and younger	All discharges
Total number of discharges	608,244	2,918,553
Aggregate charges (in billions)	\$9.8	\$89.0
Mean charges per stay	\$16,180	\$30,496
Mean length of stay (in days)	4.2	5.3
Percentage of admitted through the emergency department	15.6%	39.7%
Percent distribution of discharge status		
Routine	96.8%	77.7%
Home health care	0.5%	6.8%
Against medical advice	0.1%	0.7%
Died in the hospital	0.4%	1.8%
Other	2.2%	13.1%

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2008.

Number of hospitals stays for children by age

Figure 1 shows the age distribution for children admitted to the hospital. Nearly 440 thousand discharges (72.3 percent) were for infants younger than one year of age, of whom 393,674 (64.7 percent) were newborn infants. There were 46,125 infants hospitalized in the first year of life (following birth). Children ages 1-4 made up 8.0 percent of all children's discharges, 5-9 year olds comprised 5.3 percent, 10-14 year olds comprised 6.1 percent, and 15-17 year olds accounted for 8.4 percent of children's discharges.

Figure 1. Distribution of hospital stays for children by age, 2008

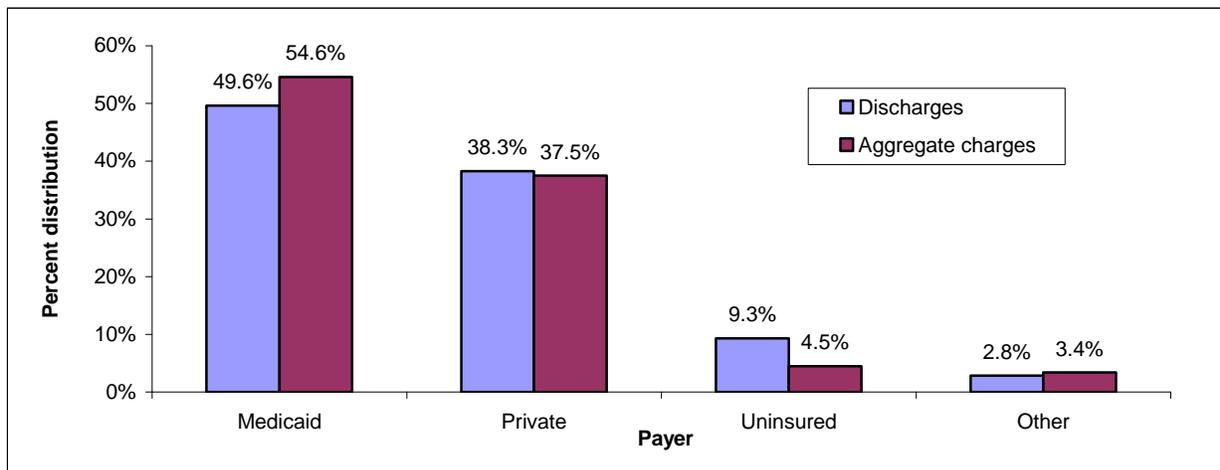


Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2008.

Percentage of payer type for hospitalizations of children

Figure 2 shows the percent distribution of hospital stays and total charges for children by primary expected source. Nearly half of all children's stays were covered by Medicaid. Private insurance was billed for about 38 percent of children's stays while about 9 percent of children were uninsured for hospitalizations. Percent distribution of total charges by payer was comparable with hospital stays: about 55 percent, 38 percent, and 5 percent of total charges for children's stays were Medicaid, private insured, and uninsured, respectively.

Figure 2. Percent distribution of hospital stays and aggregate charges for children by payer, 2008

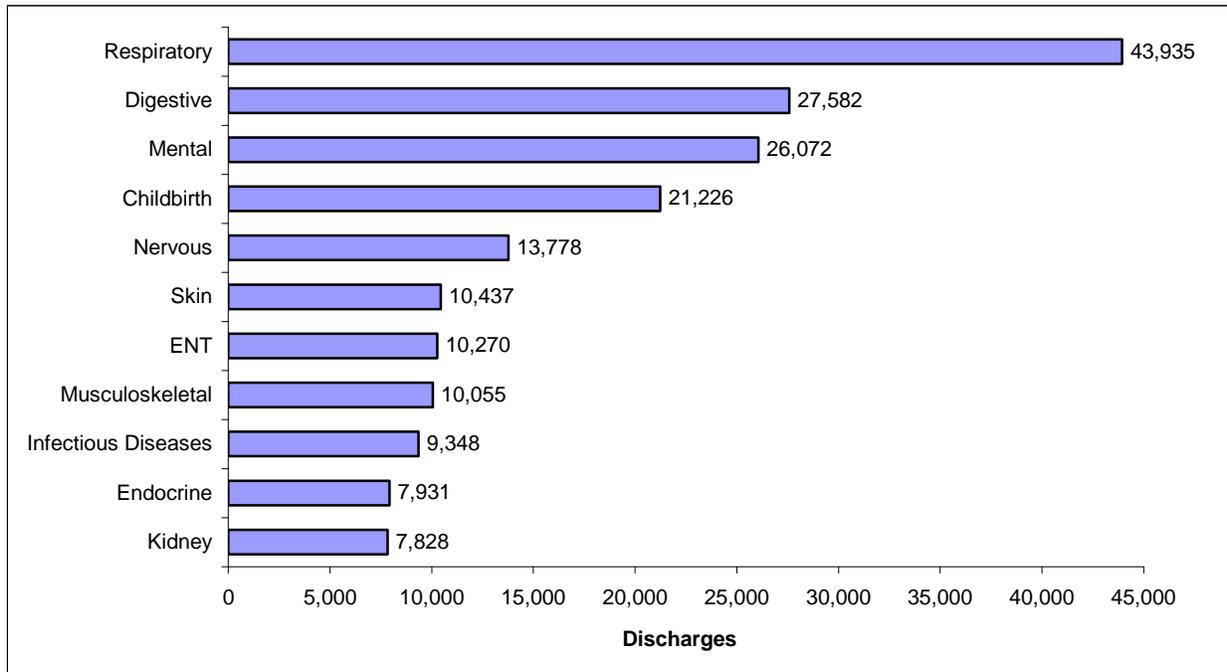


Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2008.

Top 11 reasons for hospitalizations for children

Figure 3 depicts common reasons for children’s admissions based on the major diagnostic category (MDC) associated with the stay. The diagnostic category of newborns and other neonates with conditions originating in the perinatal period was excluded, resulting in 214,552 non-newborn children’s stays. Among these non-newborns, respiratory disorders were the most frequent reasons, accounting for 1 in 5 non-newborn stays (20.5 percent). Digestive (12.9 percent) and mental disorders (12.2 percent) were equally likely to be seen, and they together made up 1 in 4 non-newborn stays. Childbirth accounted for 1 in 10 non-newborn stays (9.9 percent). Nervous disorders comprised 6.4 percent of non-newborn stays. Skin, ENT, musculoskeletal disorders, and infectious diseases each accounted for 4-5 percent of non-newborn hospitalizations.

Figure 3. Top 11 most common reasons for hospital stays for children, 2008*



* Based on APR-MDC; excludes newborns.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2008.

Top 10 conditions for hospitalizations of children.

Table 2 lists the top 10 most frequent specific conditions for children admitted to the hospital and again liveborn conditions were excluded. These 10 conditions comprised about 45 percent of all non-liveborn children's hospitalizations. Mood disorders were the most frequent condition which accounted for nearly 1 in 10 non-liveborn stays (9.8 percent). The next three most common conditions were related to the respiratory system—pneumonia, acute bronchitis, and asthma, and they together made up 1 in 6 non-liveborn stays (16.7 percent).

Table 2. Most common specific conditions for children admitted to hospital, 2008*

Rank	Principal diagnosis	Number of discharges
1	Mood disorders	21,855
2	Pneumonia	14,371
3	Acute bronchitis	13,023
4	Asthma	9,878
5	Skin and subcutaneous tissue infections	8,618
6	Fluid and electrolyte disorders	8,333
7	Appendicitis	8,049
8	Other perinatal conditions	7,369
9	Epilepsy, convulsions	5,099
10	Urinary tract infections	4,859
Total discharges for children 17 years and younger		223,845

* Excludes liveborn conditions.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2008.

Top 10 procedures for hospitalizations for children

Table 3 shows the most common all-listed procedures for children's hospitalizations. The most common procedure received by children in the hospital was prophylactic vaccinations and inoculations given to 166,053 infants. The second most common procedure was circumcision, which was performed on 96,014 infant males. Ranking third was ophthalmologic and otologic diagnosis and treatment which was received by 60,703 children. Other therapeutic procedures ranked the 4th with 32,655 cases.

Table 3. Most common all-listed procedures received by children in hospital, 2008

Rank	All-listed procedures	Number of discharges
1	Prophylactic vaccinations and inoculations	166,053
2	Circumcision	96,014
3	Ophthalmologic and otologic diagnosis and treatment	60,703
4	Other therapeutic procedures	32,655
5	Respiratory intubation and mechanical ventilation	19,784
6	Other vascular catheterization, not heart	18,940
7	Diagnostic spinal tap	13,793
8	Enteral and parenteral nutrition	11,275
9	Blood transfusion	11,168
10	Other procedures to assist delivery	8,563

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2008.