STATISTICAL BRIEF

October 2010

Hospital Stays for Influenza, 2008

In 2008, there were 6,559 hospitalizations occurred in which influenza was noted during the hospital stay in Texas. For about half of these hospital stays (3,250), influenza was listed as the principal reason for admission. The aggregate hospital charges for stays with influenza as a principal diagnosis totaled about $65 million.

Table 1 compares the general characteristics of hospitalizations for influenza with the characteristics of all hospitalizations. The mean length of stay for the treatment of influenza was 3.8 days–1.5 days shouter than for all hospital stays. The average charge of a hospital stay for influenza was about one-third less than the average charge for hospital stays overall ($20,045 versus $30,496). Consequently, influenza resulted in a mean hospital charge per day that was about $500 lower than the mean charge per day for all hospital stays ($5,247 versus $5,702). Hospital stays for influenza originated in the emergency department more often than the average hospitalization (65.3 percent versus 39.7 percent), but resulted in lower in-hospital death rate than for all hospital stays (1.2 percent versus 1.8 percent).

As shown in Figure 1, the majority of patients hospitalized for influenza were concentrated in two groups–children (17 years and younger) and the elderly (65 years and older). Although the elderly represented only 10 percent of the Texas population, they accounted for 31 percent of all hospitalizations for influenza. Patients 18-64 years old comprised about 63.4 percent of the population yet accounted for 24.4 percent of all influenza hospitalizations. While children comprised 26.7 percent of the total population, they accounted for 44.5 percent of influenza stays.

When adjusted for population differences, the elderly were more likely to be hospitalized for influenza than any other age group (Figure 2). They were hospitalized at a rate of 42.0 admissions per 100,000 population, while children were hospitalized for influenza at a rate of 22.3 admissions per 100,000 population. Among 18-44 and 45-64 year olds, there were only 3.3 and 8.3 stays per 100,000 population, respectively.

Figure 3 displays the percentage of hospitalizations for influenza originating in the emergency department among each age group. While emergency admissions accounted for 52 percent of all influenza admissions among children, over 70 percent of influenza hospitalizations originated in the emergency department for each adult age group.

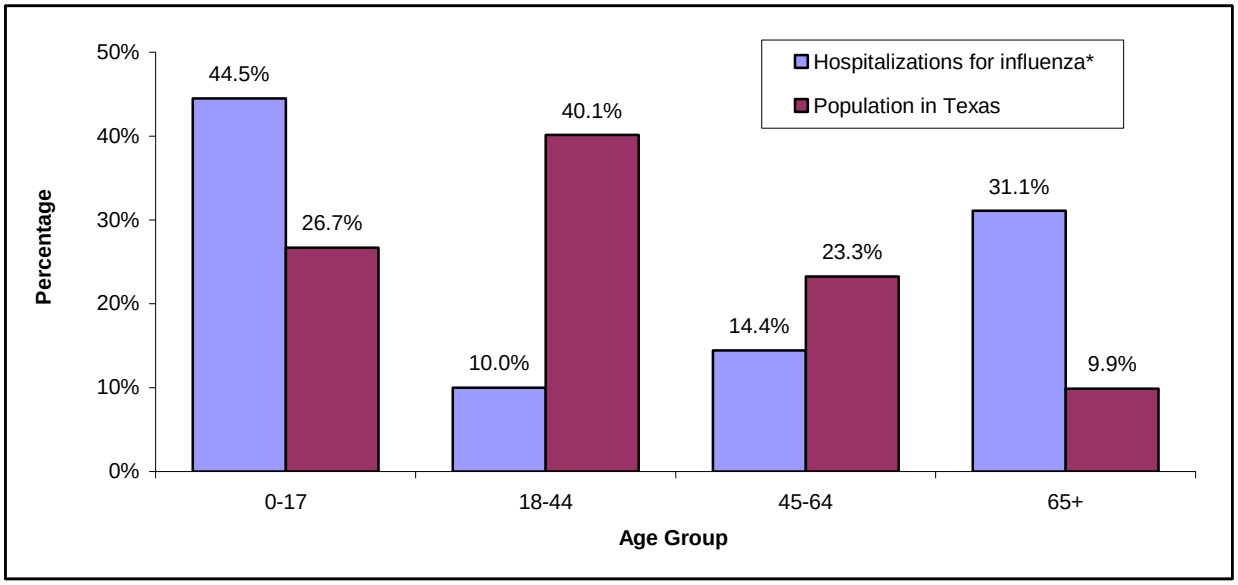
Table 1. Hospitalizations for influenza compared to hospitalizations for all conditions, 2008

	Hospital stays for influenza*	All hospital stays
Total number of discharges	3,250	2,918,553
Mean length of stay (in days)	3.8	5.3
Mean charge per stay	$20,045	$30,496
Mean charge per day	$5,247	$5,702
Aggregate charges (in millions)	$65	$89,005
Percentage admitted through the emergency department	65.3%	39.7%
Percentage died in hospital	1.2%	1.8%

* Based on principal diagnosis.

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

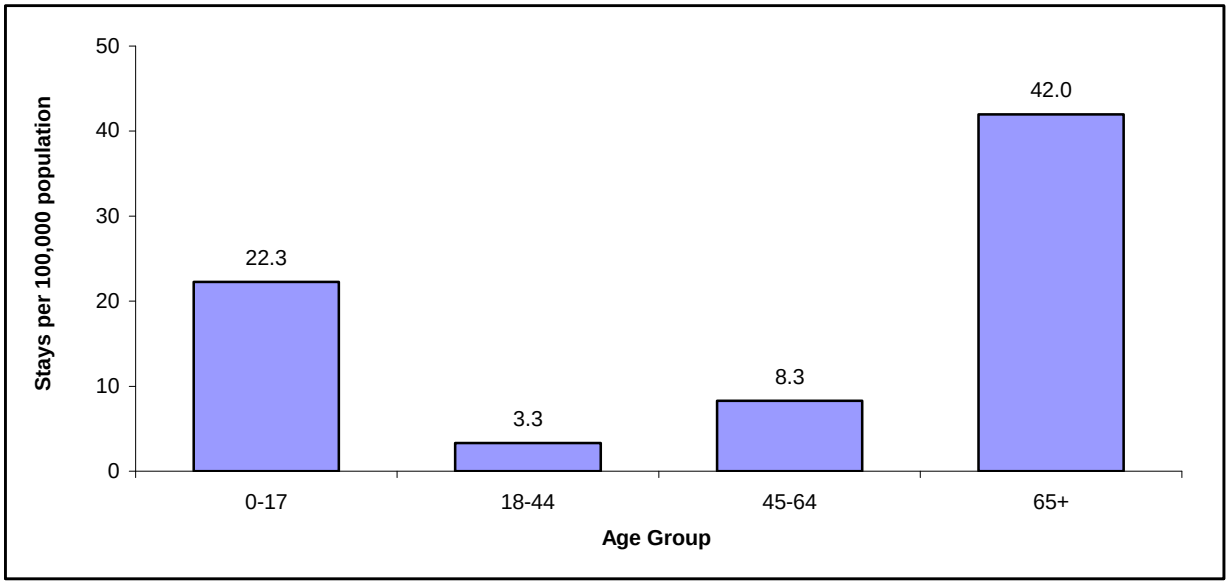
Figure 1. Distribution of hospitalizations for influenza* versus population, by age group, 2008



* Based on principal diagnosis.

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

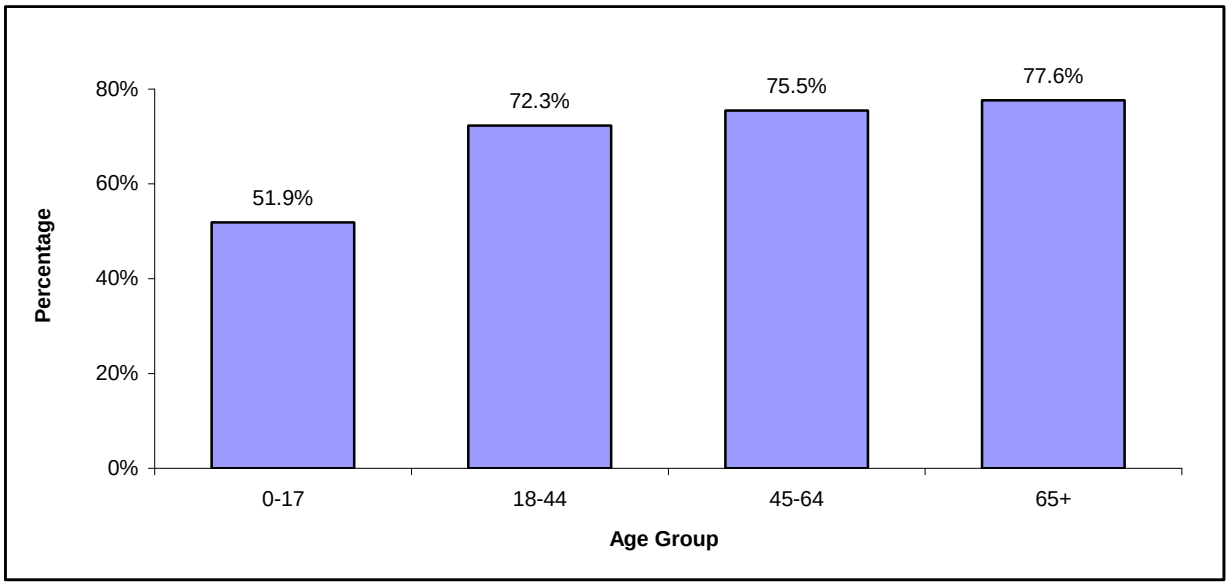
Figure 2. Rate of hospitalizations for influenza, by age group, 2008*



* Based on principal diagnosis.

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

Figure 3. Percentage of hospitalizations for influenza originating in the emergency department, by age group, 2008*



* Based on principal diagnosis.

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