



June 2012

Uninsured Hospitalizations, 2010

In 2010, about 10 percent of hospital stays were uninsured in Texas. There were 286,603 uninsured hospitalizations resulting in about \$8.6 billion aggregate hospital charges statewide.

Table 1 displays the characteristics of uninsured hospital stays compared with stays covered by private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, and all hospitalized patients. Although 18-44 years olds comprise 27.6 percent of hospital stays overall, 46.5 percent of hospital patients who were uninsured are in this age group, compared with 36.0 percent of privately insured patients and 39.4 percent of those covered by Medicaid. Females accounted for 12 percent more discharges than males for uninsured hospitalizations, compared with 21 percent more discharges for overall hospitalizations. Hispanic patients accounted for 29.7 percent of hospitalizations overall, but this percentage increased to 39.0 percent for uninsured hospitalizations. The mean length of stay for uninsured hospitalizations (4.5 days) was significantly shorter than for Medicare (6.5 days) and private insurance (5.0 days), but was slightly longer than for Medicaid (4.2 days). Mean charges per hospital stay were somewhat different among uninsured (\$30 thousand), private insured (\$33 thousand), Medicaid (\$24 thousand), and Medicare (\$48 thousand) hospital stays.

The percentage of uninsured hospital stays that originated in the emergency department was cut in half, from 53.6% in 2007 down to 26.6% in 2010. As shown in Figure 1, 26.6 percent of hospital stays for the uninsured originated in the emergency department which was about double the percentage for Medicaid (13.1%) or for private insurance (14.6%), and slightly higher than the percentage for Medicare (25.9%).

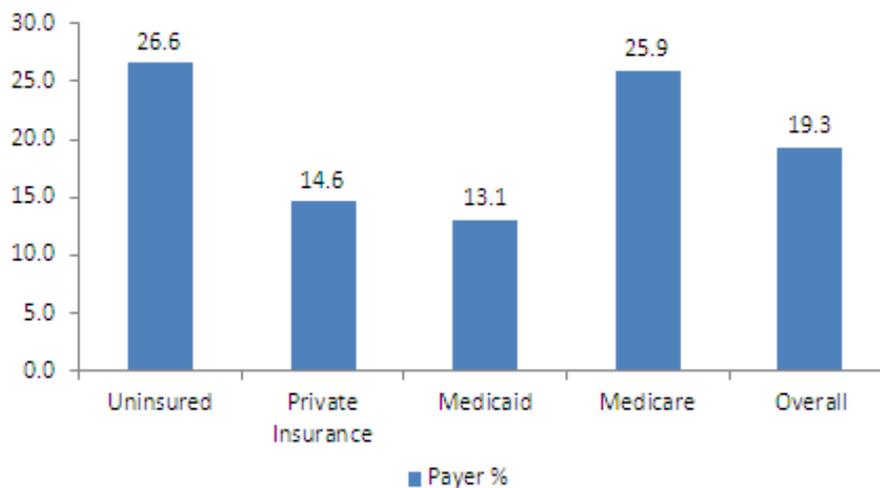
Figure 2 depicts discharge status for uninsured hospital stays compared with insured hospital stays. For the routine discharge (discharged to home or self-care), nearly 90 percent of uninsured hospital stays was almost identical to the percentage of private insured stays, as compared with 93.3 percent for Medicaid and 49.5 percent for Medicare. About 2 percent of uninsured hospital stays ended in discharge against medical advice, which was four times higher than for private insured stays and over two times higher than for Medicaid or Medicare stays.

Table 1. Characteristics of uninsured versus insured hospital stays, 2010

	Uninsured	Private Insurance	Medicaid	Medicare	Overall
Number of hospital stays (percent)	286,603 (9.7%)	940,431 (31.9%)	648,299 (22.0%)	972,559 (33.0%)	2,944,378 (100%)
Percentage by age					
17 and younger	15.6%	23.3%	48.0%	0.1%	20.2%
18-44	46.5%	36.0%	39.4%	4.9%	27.6%
45-64	34.4%	33.5%	11.6%	16.3%	23.2%
65 and older	3.5%	7.1%	1.0%	78.7%	29.0%
Percentage by gender					
Male	36.3%	35.9%	30.4%	40.5%	36.5%
Female	48.2%	58.7%	64.8%	54.9%	57.2%
Unknown	15.5%	5.4%	4.8%	4.6%	6.2%
Percentage by race/ethnicity					
Hispanic	39.0%	21.4%	53.2%	19.3%	29.7%
White, non-Hispanic	40.1%	58.7%	24.4%	62.3%	50.0%
Black, non-Hispanic	14.6%	11.1%	16.2%	12.5%	13.2%
Asian, non-Hispanic	1.6%	2.7%	1.3%	0.8%	1.6%
Other	4.7%	6.3%	4.8%	5.1%	5.5%
Mean length of stay (days)	4.5	5.0	4.2	6.5	5.3
Mean charges per stay	\$30,034	\$33,366	\$23,595	\$47,872	\$35,720
Aggregate charges (millions)	\$8,608	\$31,379	\$15,296	\$46,558	\$105,174

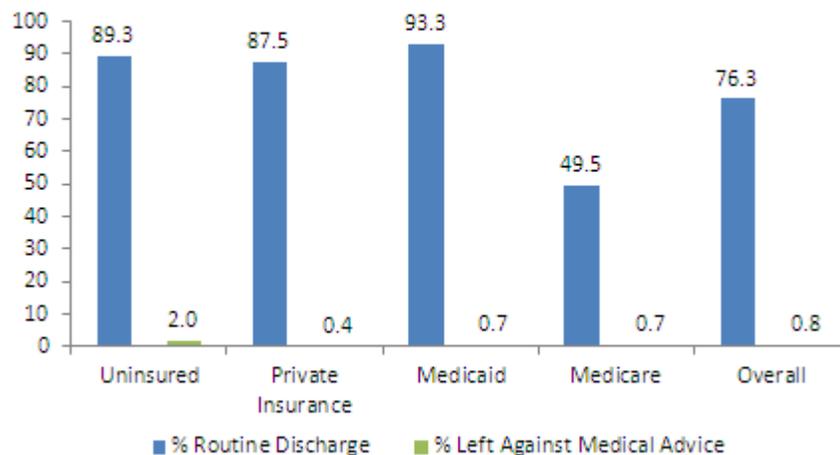
Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2010.

Figure 1. Admissions through the emergency department for uninsured and insured hospital stays, 2010



Source: Texas hospital Inpatient Discharge public Use Data File (PUDF), 2010

Figure 2. Hospital discharge status for uninsured and insured hospital stays, 2010



Source: Texas hospital Inpatient Discharge public Use Data File (PUDF), 2010