

Potentially Preventable Visits

Methodology

For this dashboard, DSHS analyzed 2023-2024 ED visits data using a methodology involving specific diagnosis codes from the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-10-CM), which is developed by the World Health Organization.

The ICD-10-CM principal diagnostic codes listed on Table A were used to determine avoidable ED visits. The avoidable ED visits ICD-10-CM diagnosis codes were obtained by converting the emergency room collaborative avoidable visits International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification diagnosis codes from the Statewide Collaborative Quality Improvement Project: Reducing Avoidable Emergency Room Visits, Final Remeasurement Report by the California Department of Health Care Services' Medi-Cal Managed Care Division.

All avoidable ED visits are for patients who were treated and sent home because their condition did not require hospital admission. Thus, only DSHS Outpatient ED Public Use Data Files were analyzed.

However, for mental health and substance abuse (MHSA) avoidable ED visits, both DSHS Inpatient and Outpatient ED Public Use Data Files were analyzed using the MHSA ICD-10-CM diagnoses codes. The lesser-known certainty of disease processes for patients with MHSA diagnoses or conditions yields difficulty in determining MHSA ED visits that are truly avoidable.

Furthermore, it should be noted that data for people for whom Medicaid was identified as the payer for their ED visit at the time of the visit, may differ from data collected and reported by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission's Medicaid program.

Table A. Avoidable ED Visits ICD-10-CM Codes¹

ICD-10-CM	Description
B354	Tinea corporis
B355	Tinea imbricata
B37	Candidiasis
B370	Candidal stomatitis
B3783	Candidal cheilitis
B373	Candidiasis of vulva and vagina
B3742	Candidal balanitis
B3749	Other urogenital candidiasis
B372	Candidiasis of skin and nail
B378	Candidiasis of other sites
B3784	Candidal otitis externa
B3781	Candidal esophagitis
B3782	Candidal enteritis
B3789	Other sites of candidiasis
B379	Candidiasis, unspecified
B86	Scabies
B880	Other acariasis
B889	Infestation, unspecified
H10	Conjunctivitis
H100	Mucopurulent conjunctivitis
H1033	Unspecified acute conjunctivitis, bilateral
H10239	Serous conjunctivitis, except viral, unspecified eye
H10019	Acute follicular conjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H10029	Other mucopurulent conjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H10229	Pseudomembranous conjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H1013	Acute atopic conjunctivitis, bilateral
H104	Chronic conjunctivitis
H10409	Unspecified chronic conjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H10429	Simple chronic conjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H10439	Chronic follicular conjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H1044	Vernal conjunctivitis
H1045	Other chronic allergic conjunctivitis
H1089	Other conjunctivitis
H105	Blepharoconjunctivitis
H10509	Unspecified blepharoconjunctivitis, unspecified eye

¹ Source: ICD-10-CM codes obtained from converting emergency room collaborative avoidable visits International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification diagnosis codes. California Department of Health Care Services, Medi-Cal Managed Care Division. Statewide Collaborative Quality Improvement Project: Reducing Avoidable Emergency Room Visits, Final Remeasurement Report: January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2010. Published June 2012.

ICD-10-CM	Description
H10529	Angular blepharoconjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H10539	Contact blepharoconjunctivitis, unspecified eye
H109	Unspecified conjunctivitis
H1089	Other conjunctivitis
H01149	Xeroderma of unspecified eye, unspecified eyelid
H66	Suppurative and unspecified otitis media
H660	Acute suppurative otitis media
H66009	Acute suppurative otitis media without spontaneous rupture ear drum, unspecified ear
H66019	Acute suppurative otitis media with spontaneous rupture ear drum, unspecified ear
H6613	Chronic tubotympanic suppurative otitis media, bilateral
H6623	Chronic atticoantral suppurative otitis media, bilateral
H663X9	Other chronic suppurative otitis media, unspecified ear
H6640	Suppurative otitis media, unspecified, unspecified ear
H6690	Otitis media, unspecified, unspecified ear
H70099	Acute mastoiditis with other complications, unspecified ear
J00	Acute nasopharyngitis [common cold]
J029	Acute pharyngitis, unspecified
J06	Acute upper respiratory infections of multiple and unspecified sites
J060	Acute laryngopharyngitis
J069	Acute upper respiratory infection, unspecified
J20	Acute bronchitis
J209	Acute bronchitis, unspecified
J31	Chronic rhinitis, nasopharyngitis and pharyngitis
J310	Chronic rhinitis
J312	Chronic pharyngitis
J311	Chronic nasopharyngitis
J32	Chronic sinusitis
J320	Chronic maxillary sinusitis
J321	Chronic frontal sinusitis
J322	Chronic ethmoidal sinusitis
J323	Chronic sphenoidal sinusitis
J324	Chronic pansinusitis
J328	Other chronic sinusitis
J329	Chronic sinusitis, unspecified
J3503	Chronic tonsillitis and adenoiditis
J359	Chronic disease of tonsils and adenoids, unspecified
J3501	Chronic tonsillitis
J3502	Chronic adenoiditis
J3503	Chronic tonsillitis and adenoiditis
J353	Hypertrophy of tonsils with hypertrophy of adenoids
J351	Hypertrophy of tonsils
J352	Hypertrophy of adenoids

ICD-10-CM	Description
J358	Other chronic diseases of tonsils and adenoids
J359	Chronic disease of tonsils and adenoids, unspecified
N30	Cystitis
N302	Other chronic cystitis
N303	Trigonitis
N304	Irradiation cystitis
N309	Cystitis, unspecified
N300	Acute cystitis
N3000	Acute cystitis without hematuria
N3001	Acute cystitis with hematuria
N3010	Interstitial cystitis (chronic) without hematuria
N3011	Interstitial cystitis (chronic) with hematuria
N3020	Other chronic cystitis without hematuria
N3021	Other chronic cystitis with hematuria
N3030	Trigonitis without hematuria
N3031	Trigonitis with hematuria
N3081	Other cystitis with hematuria
H308	Other chorioretinal inflammations
N3040	Irradiation cystitis without hematuria
N3041	Irradiation cystitis with hematuria
N3080	Other cystitis without hematuria
N3090	Cystitis, unspecified without hematuria
N3091	Cystitis, unspecified with hematuria
N390	Urinary tract infection, site not specified
N72	Inflammatory disease of cervix uteri
N760	Acute vaginitis
N761	Subacute and chronic vaginitis
N762	Acute vulvitis
N763	Subacute and chronic vulvitis
N764	Abscess of vulva
N765	Ulceration of vagina
N766	Ulceration of vulva
N7689	Other specified inflammation of vagina and vulva
N7681	Mucositis (ulcerative) of vagina and vulva
N768	Other specified inflammation of vagina and vulva
N76	Other inflammation of vagina and vulva
N978	Female infertility of other origin
L298	Other pruritus
L299	Pruritus, unspecified
L740	Miliaria rubra
L741	Miliaria crystallina
L742	Miliaria profunda

ICD-10-CM	Description
M545	Low back pain
M5489	Other dorsalgia
M549	Dorsalgia, unspecified
M533	Sacrococcygeal disorders, not elsewhere classified
M5408	Panniculitis affecting regions of neck/back, sacral/sacrococcygeal region
G441	Vascular headache, not elsewhere classified
R51	Headache
Z09	Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for conditions other than malignant neoplasm
Z08	Encounter for follow-up examination after completed treatment for malignant neoplasm
Z027	Encounter for issue of medical certificate
Z0271	Encounter for disability determination
Z0279	Encounter for issue of other medical certificate
Z760	Encounter for issue of repeat prescription
Z048	Encounter for examination and observation for other reasons
Z021	Encounter for pre-employment examination
Z022	Encounter for exam for admission to residential institution
Z023	Encounter for examination for recruitment to armed forces
Z024	Encounter for examination for driving license
Z025	Encounter for examination for participation in sport
Z026	Encounter for examination for insurance purposes
Z027	Encounter for issue of medical certificate
Z0271	Encounter for disability determination
Z020	Encounter for exam for admission to educational institution
Z02	Encounter for administrative examination
Z049	Encounter for examination and observation for unspecified reason
Z0289	Encounter for other administrative examinations
Z029	Encounter for administrative examinations, unspecified
Z00	Encounter for general examination without complaint, suspected or reported diagnosis
Z0000	Encounter for general adult medical exam without abnormal findings
Z008	Encounter for other general examination
Z0289	Encounter for other administrative examinations
Z0281	Encounter for paternity testing
Z0283	Encounter for blood-alcohol and blood-drug test
Z021	Encounter for pre-employment examination
Z023	Encounter for examination for recruitment to armed forces
Z0289	Encounter for other administrative examinations
Z006	Encounter for examination for normal comparison and control in clinical research program
Z005	Encounter for exam of potential donor of organ and tissue
Z01	Encounter for other special examination without complaint, suspected or reported diagnosis

ICD-10-CM	Description
Z0100	Encounter for exam of eyes and vision without abnormal findings
Z0101	Encounter for exam of eyes and vision with abnormal findings
Z011	Encounter for examination of ears and hearing
Z01110	Encounter for hearing exam following failed hear screening
Z0112	Encounter for hearing conservation and treatment
Z0110	Encounter for exam of ears and hearing without abnormal findings
Z01118	Encounter for exam of ears and hearing with other abnormal findings
Z0120	Encounter for dental exam and cleaning without abnormal findings
Z0121	Encounter for dental exam and cleaning with abnormal findings
Z014	Encounter for gynecological examination
Z01411	Encounter for gynecological exam (general) (routine) with abnormal findings
Z01419	Encounter for gynecological exam (general) (routine) without abnormal findings
Z0142	Encounter for cervical smear to confirm normal smear following initial abnormal smear
Z32	Encounter for pregnancy test and childbirth and childcare instruction
Z3200	Encounter for pregnancy test, result unknown
Z3202	Encounter for pregnancy test, result negative
Z3201	Encounter for pregnancy test, result positive
Z01810	Encounter for preprocedural cardiovascular examination
Z01811	Encounter for preprocedural respiratory examination
Z01818	Encounter for other preprocedural examination
Z01812	Encounter for preprocedural laboratory examination
Z0189	Encounter for other specified special examinations
Z0183	Encounter for blood typing

THCIC Data Masking/Suppression in the Emergency Department Public Use Data File

(masking = modified, suppression = blank/null/`)

MHSA and HIVALC Masking

Definitions

MHSA

Stands for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (MHSA). THCIC masks records of patient visits occurring at a designated Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) healthcare facility per federal masking requirements. Any records with one or more diagnosis codes among the 26 inpatient diagnosis codes (admitting diagnosis, princ_diag_code, and oth_diag_code 1 – oth_diag_code24) and 25 outpatient diagnosis codes (princ_diag_code, and oth_diag_code 1 – oth_diag_code24) starting with the values listed below are masked.

“F” - mental health disorders in general

“R45851” - suicidal ideations

“T1491” - suicide attempts

“X6” – “X8” - intentional self-harms, ICD-10 Version 2019

HIVALC

Stands for HIV, Alcohol, and other substance use/abuse. THCIC masks records with HIV diagnosis codes (26 for in patient and 25 for outpatient, just as MHSA) and/or diagnosis codes for alcohol and other substance abuse/use; while HIVALC records bear the same masking as MHSA records, the age of these patients are grouped separately and differently from the rest of the records.

HIV: “B20” – “B24”, “R75”, “Z21”, “O987”, “B9735”

ALC (alcohol and other substance abuse/use): “F1”, “F55”, “Z720”, “O9931” – “O9933”

Federal and State Statues

SAMHSA passed rules for the protection of MHSA patients covered under the federal statutes, 42 USC §290dd-2 and 42 CFR Part 2 rules:

- [42 USC §290dd-2](#)
- [42 CFR Part 2 \(aligned with HIPAA and HITECH\)](#)
- [Fact Sheet 42 CFR Part 2 Final Rule](#)

The combination of the federal confidentiality law, HIPAA 1996, and state law, Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81 addresses the confidentiality of HIV patient information:

[Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996](#)

[Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 81](#)

Information/Variables to be Masked

The federal rules require that patient names, identifiers (ZIP code, city, address, county, and any geographic identifiers below the state level), sex, and dates (date of birth, statement from dates, statement through dates and procedure dates) be modified and/or masked.

Low Count and HIVALC Masking/Suppression

Low Count

Counts by Hospital (THCIC ID)

- If a hospital has < 5 discharges of a particular sex, including 'unknown',
 - the entire ZIP code (PAT_ZIP) is suppressed
 - provider name (PROVIDER_NAME) is suppressed
 - provider ID (THCIC_ID) is changed to "999998"
- If a hospital has < 10 discharges of a race,
 - race is changed to "Other"
 - ethnicity is suppressed
- If a hospital has < 50 discharges in a quarter,
 - the entire ZIP code is suppressed
 - provider ID is changed to "999999"

Counts by Zip Code

- If there are < 30 discharges in a ZIP code,
 - the last 2 digits of the discharges' ZIP codes are suppressed

Counts by County

- If a county has < 5 discharges for that quarter,
 - the county code is suppressed

Counts by Country

- If a country has < 5 discharges for that quarter,
 - the country code is suppressed

Other

- If the patients are from states other than Texas or adjacent states
 - the ZIP code is changed to "88888" (done in section I.)

HIVALC

HIVALC records have the following masking rules applied:

- age is represented by 5 age group codes rather than the 22 groups of the general non-HIVALC patient population
- sex is suppressed
- the entire ZIP code (back quote), county (blank), public health region (blank), country (back quote) are suppressed
- physician IDs are suppressed if < 5 physicians per CCS procedure code 1

Useful Websites

<https://www.icd10data.com/ICD10CM/Codes>

<https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/X60-X84>

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/hivstd/info/edmat/HIVandTexasLaw.pdf>



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