



STATISTICAL BRIEF

October 2009

Hospital Admissions That Began in the Emergency Department for Children and Adolescents, 2007

In 2007, children and adolescents under 18 years of age (pediatric) accounted for 624,666 (21.3 percent) of the nearly 3 million total hospital stays in Texas. Over half of pediatric hospitalizations were related to births and maternal care. Excluding these cases, Table 1 compares pediatric hospital stays that began in the emergency department (ED) with those that did not begin in the ED, and Table 2 compares pediatric with adult (greater than 17 years of age) admissions through the ED.

Nearly 30 percent of the pediatric stays (90,287 hospitalizations) were admitted through the ED, compared with adult admissions through the ED that accounted for about 50 percent of the adult stays. However, after accounting for population size, children and adolescents experienced a much lower rate of admissions from the ED compared with adults (14.0 stays per 1,000 children and adolescents versus 56.2 stays per 1,000 adults).

Hospital stays for children and adolescents that began in the ED were less expensive and shorter than either non-emergency pediatric stays or adult stays that began in the ED. Compared with non-emergency pediatric stays, hospitalizations for children and adolescents that started in the ED were, on average, about \$8,000 less expensive (\$22,017 per stay versus \$30,775 per stay) and about four days shorter (3.6 days versus 7.5 days). Both types of stays resulted in in-hospital death infrequently (under 1 percent of cases). Relative to adult stays that began in the ED, comparable pediatric hospitalizations were, on average, about \$11,000 less expensive (\$22,017 per stay versus \$33,402 per stay), about one and half days shorter (3.6 days versus 5.2 days), and resulted in death about a thirteenth as often (0.4 percent versus 3.1 percent).

Figure 1 displays the percent distribution of payer for pediatric hospitalizations from the ED and includes adult hospitalizations from the ED as a comparison. Medicaid and private insurance were billed for nearly 90 percent of pediatric hospital stays, compared with about 30 percent for adult hospital stays. More than half (54.9 percent) of pediatric hospital stays were covered by Medicaid, while this coverage was only 8.2 percent for adult hospital stays. Uninsured hospital stays accounted for 7.0 percent for pediatric hospitalizations that was about a half as often for adult hospitalizations (14.1 percent).

A comparison of hospital charges by payer between pediatric and adult hospitalizations from the ED is shown in Figure 2. For pediatric hospitalizations, the mean charge of Medicaid stays was about \$1,300 more than that billed to private insurance (\$22,869 for Medicaid versus \$21,603 for private insurance) and about one-third higher than for uninsured stays (\$17,088 for uninsured). For the all four payers, the mean charges for pediatric hospitalizations were lower than for adult hospitalizations, with about \$10-\$14 thousand in difference.

Table 1. Pediatric hospitalizations that began in the ED compared with pediatric hospitalizations that did not begin in the ED, 2007*

	Pediatric hospitalizations that began in the ED	Pediatric hospitalizations that did not begin in the ED
Number of hospital stays (percent of all pediatric hospital stays)	90,287 (29.4%)	216,446 (70.6%)
Mean length of stay (days)	3.6	7.5
Mean charge per stay	\$22,017	\$30,775
Aggregate charges (millions)	\$1,988	\$6,661
Percentage died in hospital	0.4%	1.0%

* Pediatric hospitalizations are defined as stays for individuals under 18 years of age. Births and maternal cases are excluded.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2007.

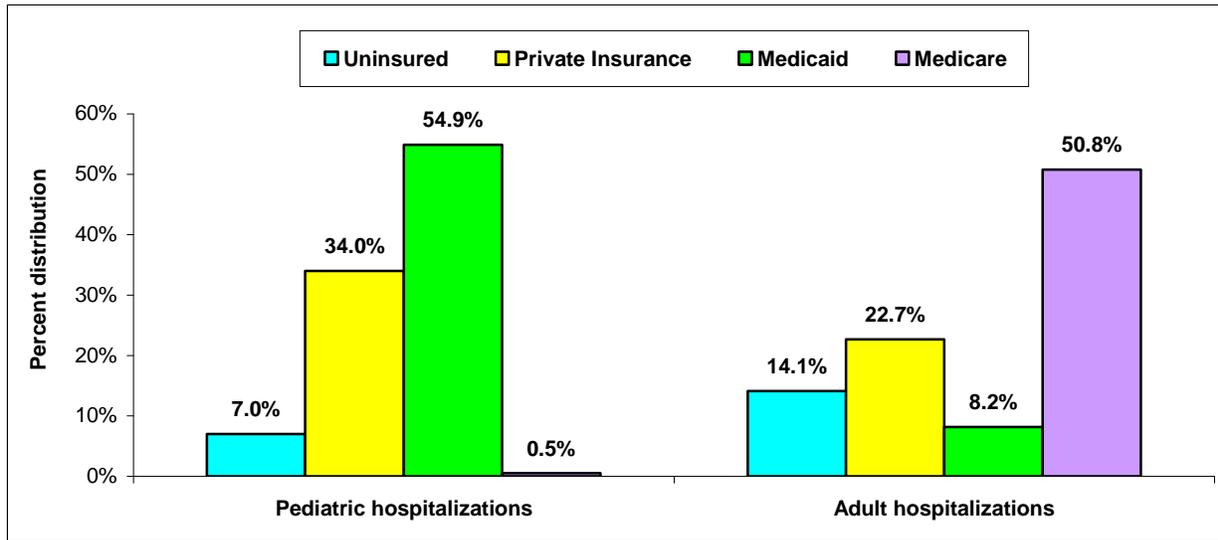
Table 2. Pediatric hospitalizations that began in the ED compared with adult hospitalizations that began in the ED, 2007*

	Pediatric hospitalizations that began in the ED	Adult hospitalizations that began in the ED
Number of hospital stays (percent of all hospital stays for each case)	90,287 (29.4%)	982,085 (51.6%)
Rate of hospital stays per 1,000 persons	14.0	56.2
Mean length of stay (days)	3.6	5.2
Mean charge per stay	\$22,017	\$33,402
Aggregate charges (millions)	\$1,988	\$32,804
Percentage died in hospital	0.4%	3.1%

* Pediatric hospitalizations are defined as stays for individuals under 18 years of age and adult hospitalizations include stays for individuals greater than 17 years of age. Births and maternal cases are excluded.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2007.

Figure 1. Percent distribution of payer for hospitalizations from the ED, by age group, 2007*

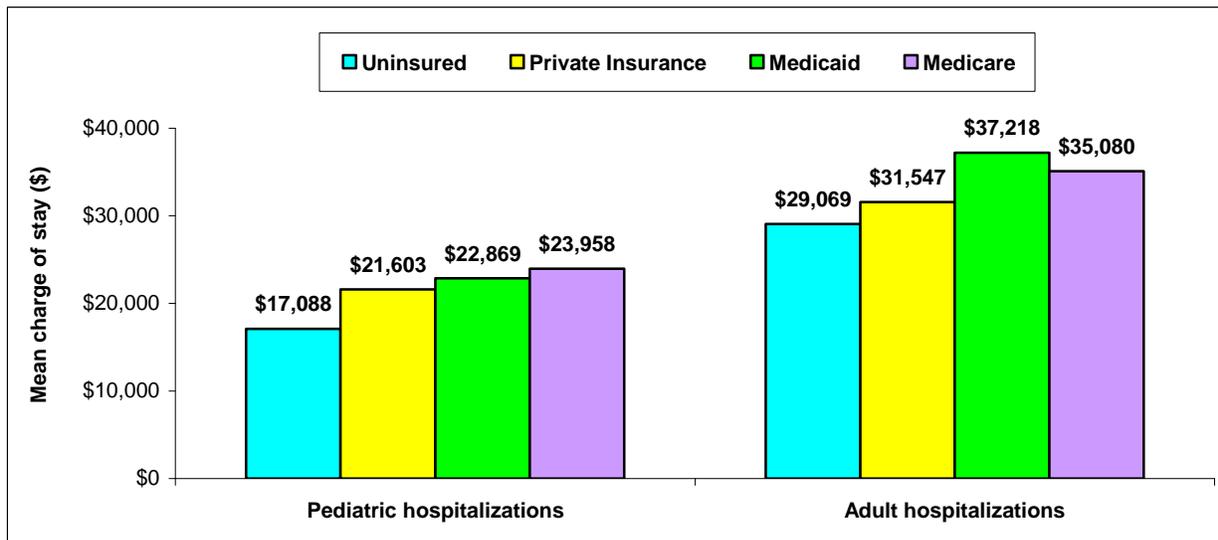


* Pediatric hospitalizations are defined as stays for individuals under 18 years of age and adult hospitalizations include stays for individuals greater than 17 years of age.

Births and maternal cases are excluded.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2007.

Figure 2. Mean charge of hospitalizations from the ED, by age group and payer, 2007*



* Pediatric hospitalizations are defined as stays for individuals under 18 years of age and adult hospitalizations include stays for individuals greater than 17 years of age.

Births and maternal cases are excluded.

Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2007.