



## STATISTICAL BRIEF

September 2009

### Uninsured Hospitalizations, 2007

In 2007, about 10 percent of hospital stays were uninsured in Texas. There were 291,387 uninsured hospitalizations resulting in about \$6.5 billion aggregate hospital charges statewide.

#### Characteristics of uninsured versus insured hospitals stays

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 28.2 percent of hospital stays overall, 46.6 percent of hospital patients who were uninsured are in this age group, compared with 37.6 percent of privately insured patients and 39.0 percent of those covered by Medicaid. Females accounted for 45 percent more discharges than males for uninsured hospitalizations, compared with 59 percent more discharges for overall hospitalizations. Hispanic patients accounted for 29.0 percent of hospitalizations overall, but this percentage increased to 42.5 percent for uninsured hospitalizations. The mean length of stay for uninsured hospitalizations (4.4 days) was significantly shorter than for Medicare (6.6 days) and private insurance (5.0 days), but was slightly longer than for Medicaid (4.2 days). Mean charges per hospital stay were somehow different among uninsured (\$22 thousand), private insured (\$25 thousand), Medicaid (\$19 thousand), and Medicare (\$38 thousand) hospital stays.

**Table 1. Characteristics of uninsured versus insured hospital stays, 2007**

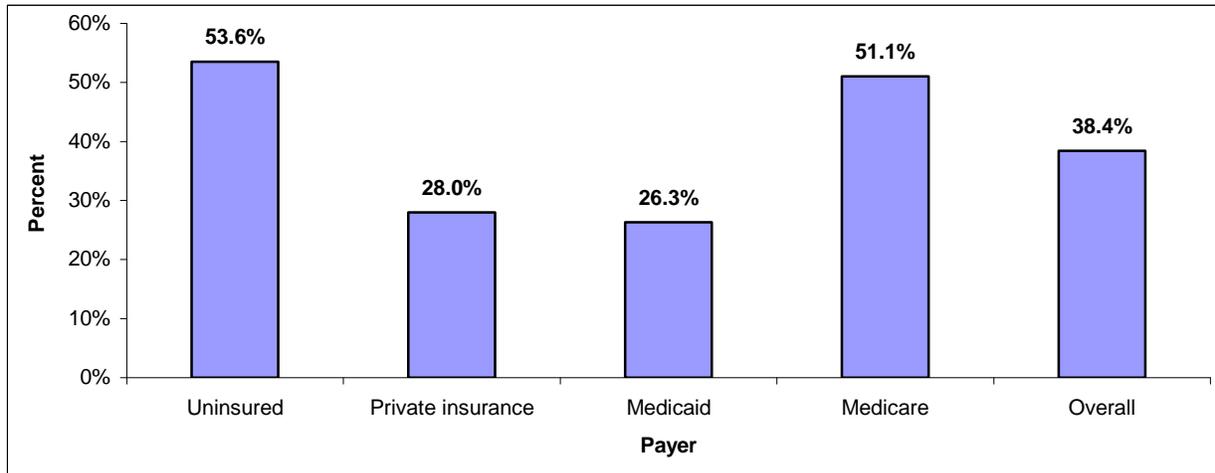
	<b>Uninsured</b>	<b>Private Insurance</b>	<b>Medicaid</b>	<b>Medicare</b>	<b>Overall</b>
<b>Number of hospital stays (percent)</b>	291,387 (9.9%)	946,561 (32.2%)	620,820 (21.1%)	979,136 (33.3%)	2,937,770 (100%)
<b>Percentage by age</b>					
<b>17 and younger</b>	19.6%	24.4%	49.8%	1.2%	21.3%
<b>18-44</b>	46.6%	37.6%	39.0%	5.6%	28.2%
<b>45-64</b>	29.3%	32.7%	10.3%	14.8%	21.9%
<b>65 and older</b>	4.5%	5.3%	0.9%	78.4%	28.7%
<b>Percentage by gender</b>					
<b>Male</b>	34.9%	36.1%	30.6%	40.1%	36.4%
<b>Female</b>	50.7%	59.6%	64.7%	55.7%	58.0%
<b>Unknown</b>	14.5%	4.4%	4.7%	4.2%	5.6%
<b>Percentage by race/ethnicity</b>					
<b>Hispanic</b>	42.5%	20.0%	52.7%	18.3%	29.0%
<b>White, non-Hispanic</b>	36.5%	60.8%	26.1%	64.5%	51.8%
<b>Black, non-Hispanic</b>	14.0%	10.8%	15.5%	12.1%	12.7%
<b>Asian, non-Hispanic</b>	1.6%	2.6%	1.0%	0.8%	1.5%
<b>Other</b>	5.4%	5.8%	4.8%	4.3%	5.0%
<b>Mean length of stay (days)</b>	4.4	5.0	4.2	6.6	5.3
<b>Mean charges per stay</b>	\$22,161	\$25,214	\$18,603	\$38,320	\$27,965
<b>Aggregate charges (millions)</b>	\$6,458	\$23,867	\$11,549	\$37,520	\$82,156

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

## Comparison of uninsured and insurance patient for those admitted through the ER

As shown in Figure 1, 53.6 percent of hospital stays for the uninsured originated in the emergency department was about double the percentage for Medicaid (26.3%) or for private insurance (28.0%), and slightly higher than the percentage for Medicare (51.1%).

**Figure 1. Admissions through the emergency department for uninsured and insured hospital stays, 2007**

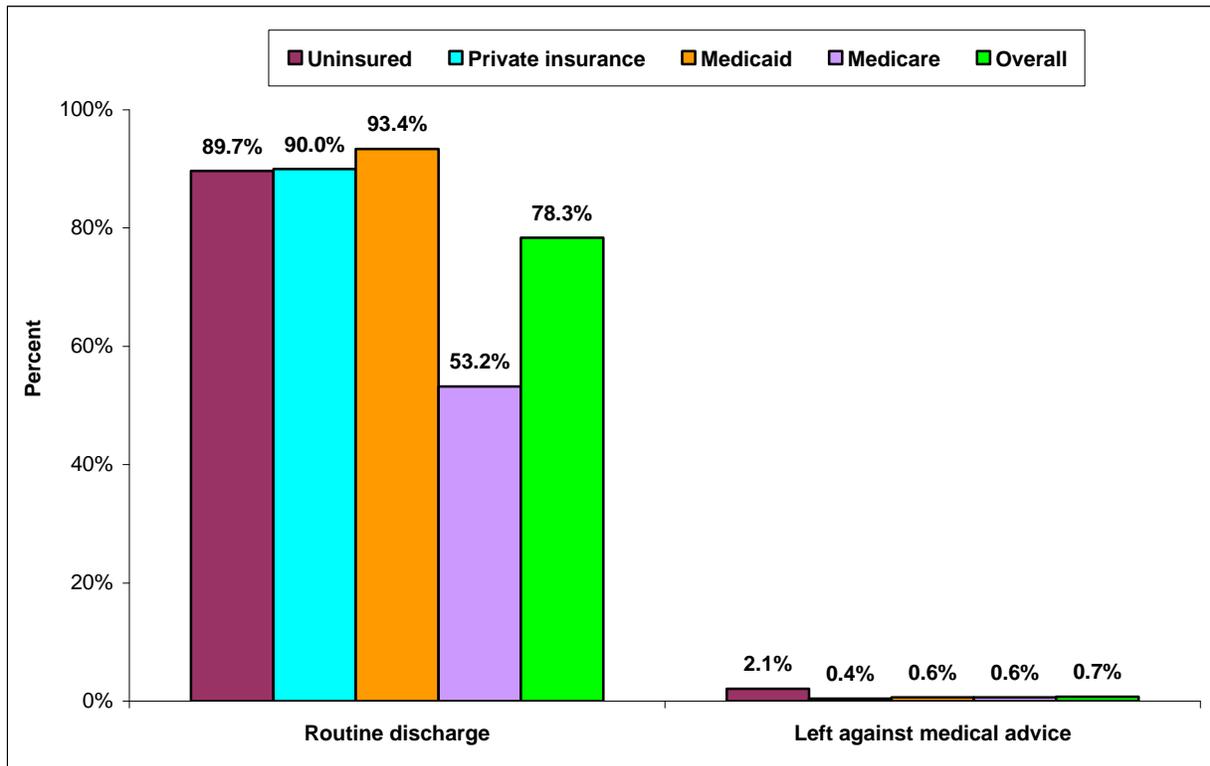


Source: Texas Hospital Inpatient Discharge Public Use Data File (PUDF), 2007.

## Comparison of uninsured and insurance hospital discharge statuses

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 93.4 percent for Medicaid and 53.2 percent for Medicare. About 2 percent of uninsured hospital stays ended in discharge against medical advice, which was five times higher than for private insured stays and over three times higher than for Medicaid or Medicaid stays.

**Figure 2. Hospital discharge status for uninsured and insured hospital stays, 2007**



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