



Healthcare Access & Utilization

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What is it?

Preventable hospitalizations rates are a fundamental indicator to measure health care access and utilization. Thus, higher rates of "preventable hospitalizations" identify areas where potential improvements can be made in the quality of the U.S. health care system. Receiving primary care promptly for chronic disease symptoms and/or conditions, hospitalization often can be avoided. Thus, potentially preventable hospitalizations are hospitalizations that could have been prevented through better access to and utilization of primary care. Communities with poorer access to coordinated primary care tend to have higher rates of potentially preventable hospitalizations.ⁱ

Why is it important:

As the population in SCC ages, the number of people in Suburban Cook County (SCC) living with a chronic disease is increasing as well as the costs to treat these diseases. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research, "Improving the quality and effectiveness of outpatient services and disease management may reduce the demand placed on the system by reducing potentially preventable hospitalizations".ⁱⁱ

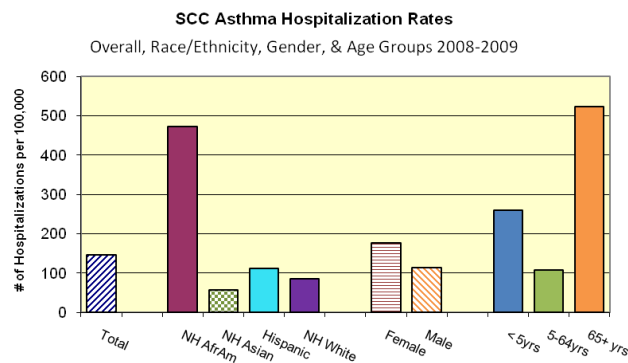
Asthma

From 2008 to 2009 there were 7,258 hospitalizations due to asthma in SCC, resulting in a hospitalization rate of 146.2/10,000. Although African Americans (AA) comprised approximately 14% of the SCC population, 44% of asthma hospitalizations were among AAs. The asthma hospitalization rate for AAs (472.1/100,000) was more than 5 times the rate of Whites (86.1/100,000). The hospitalization rate for Hispanics was 111.9/100,000 and for Asians it was 56.7/100,000.

The asthma hospitalization rate for females (176.0/100,000) was 54% higher than the rate for males (114.5/100,000).

The asthma hospitalization rate among the age group <5yrs (259.1/100,000) was close to the Healthy People (HP) 2010 goal of 250/100,000. The rate for the 5-64 yrs age group (108.7/100,000) was over the HP goal of 77/100,000). The asthma hospitalization rate among the 65+ age group (523.3/100,000) was more than 4 times the rate of the HP goal of 110/100,000.

Figure 1

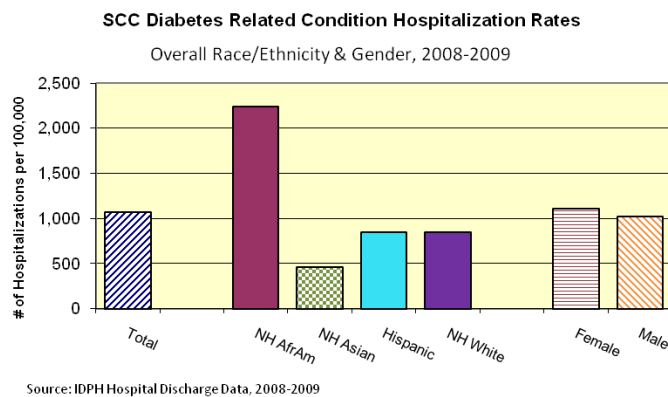


Source: IDPH Hospital Discharge Data, 2008-2009

Diabetes related

From 2008 to 2009 there were 52,924 diabetes related hospitalizations in SCC, resulting in a hospitalization rate of 1,066.4/100,000. The diabetes related hospitalization rate for African Americans (2,243.7/100,000) was 2.6 times higher than the rate among Whites (846.6/100,000). The Hispanic diabetes related hospitalization rate (845.7/100,000) was similar to that of Whites. Asians had the lowest diabetes related hospitalization rate (462.4/100,000).

Figure 2



Uncontrolled Hypertension

From 2008 to 2009 there were 5,712 hospitalizations due to uncontrolled hypertension in SCC, resulting in a hospitalization rate of 115.1/10,000. Although African Americans (AA) comprised approximately 14% of the SCC population, 47% of uncontrolled hypertension hospitalizations were among AAs. The hospitalization rate for AAs (392.3/100,000) was almost 6 times the rate of Whites (67.3/100,000). The hospitalization rate for Hispanics was 72.7/100,000 and for Asians it was 42.9/100,000.

Figure 3

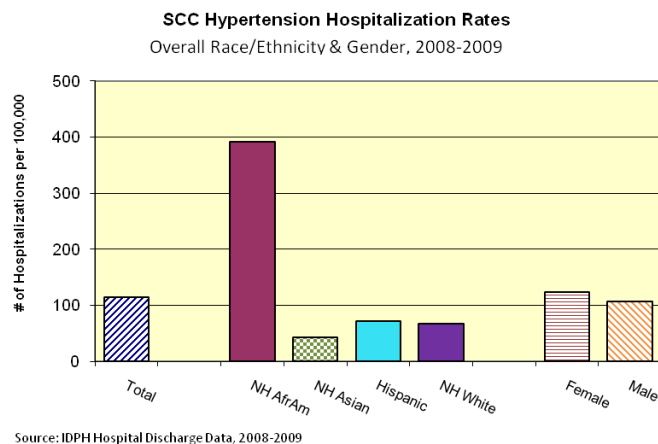


Table 1

SCC Asthma Hospitalization Rates

Overall Race/Ethnicity, Gender & Age Groups, 2008-2009

SCC 2008-2009		
	n	rate
Total	7,258	146.2
Race		
<i>NH AfrAm</i>	3,212	472.1
<i>NH Asian</i>	156	56.7
<i>Hispanic</i>	711	111.9
<i>NH White</i>	2,900	86.1
Gender		
<i>Female</i>	4,513	176.0
<i>Male</i>	2,745	114.5
Age Groups		
<i>< 5yrs</i>	877	259.1
<i>5-64yrs</i>	4,673	108.7
<i>65+ yrs</i>	1,708	523.3

^ICD-9 code: 493 – 493.9

Rates based on 2000 Census Population for SCC; Age-adjusted rates based on U.S. Standard 2000 Population

Source: IDPH Hospital Discharge

Table 2

SCC Diabetes Related Condition Hospitalization Rates

Overall Race/Ethnicity & Gender, 2008-2009

SCC 2008-2009		
	n	rate
Total	52,924	1,066.4
Race		
<i>NH AfrAm</i>	15,265	2,243.7
<i>NH Asian</i>	1,272	462.4
<i>Hispanic</i>	5,375	845.7
<i>NH White</i>	28,506	846.6
Gender		
<i>Female</i>	28,367	1,106.0
<i>Male</i>	24,555	1,023.9

^ICD-9 code: 250.1-250.9 (Primary diagnosis - Secondary Diagnosis 1-3)

Rates based on 2000 Census Population for SCC; Age-adjusted rates based on U.S. Standard 2000 Population

Source: IDPH Hospital Discharge

Table 3

SCC Hypertension Hospitalization Rates
Overall Race/Ethnicity & Gender, 2008-2009

SCC 2008-2009		
	n	rate
Total	5,712	115.1
Race		
<i>NH AfrAm</i>	2,669	392.3
<i>NH Asian</i>	118	42.9
<i>Hispanic</i>	462	72.7
<i>NH White</i>	2,266	67.3
Gender		
<i>Female</i>	3,161	123.2
<i>Male</i>	2,551	106.4

^ICD-9 code: 401-405.99

Rates based on 2000 Census Population for SCC; Age-adjusted rates based on U.S. Standard 2000 Population

Source: IDPH Hospital Discharge

ⁱ 1. Bindman AB, Grumbach K, Osmond D, et al. Preventable hospitalizations and access to health care. JAMA 1995;274:305-11.

ⁱⁱ Stranges E, Friedman B. Potentially preventable hospitalization rates declined for older adults, 2003-2007. HCUP. 2009; Statistical Brief #83.