

Hospital admissions and costs for potentially preventable conditions in adults, 2006

Hospital costs for potentially preventable hospitalizations were about one of every 10 dollars of total hospital expenditures in 2006. Costs have held steady since 2004 for potentially preventable conditions. The Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality presented national data on rates and total costs of potentially preventable hospitalizations.

Preventable conditions	Total number of admissions (in thousands)	Number of admissions per 100,000 population	Total hospital costs (in millions)
Total	4,094	1,825	\$30,055
Diabetes			
Uncontrolled diabetes without complications	49	22	\$227
Short-term diabetes complications	133	59	\$904
Long-term diabetes complications	295	131	\$2,990
Diabetes-related lower-extremity amputations	83	37	\$1,636
Circulatory diseases			
Angina without procedure	80	36	\$380
Congestive heart failure	1,047	466	\$8,381
Hypertension	119	53	\$606
Chronic respiratory diseases			
Asthma	283	126	\$1,663
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	465	207	\$3,269
Acute diseases			
Bacterial pneumonia	928	414	\$7,216
Dehydration	248	110	\$1,320
Urinary tract infection	413	184	\$2,372

Source: Jiang, H.J. (AHRQ), Russo, C.A. (Thomson Reuters), and Barrett, M.L. (M.L. Barrett, Inc). *Nationwide Frequency and Costs of Potentially Preventable Hospitalizations, 2006*. HCUP Statistical Brief #72. April 2009. U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, Md. www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb72.pdf.

FAST FACTS

Hospital costs for potentially preventable conditions totaled nearly \$30.8 billion in 2006. As many as 4.4 million hospital stays could possibly have been prevented with better ambulatory care, improved access to effective treatment or patient adoption of healthy behaviors.

Congestive heart failure and bacterial pneumonia were the two most common reasons for potentially preventable hospitalizations, accounting for half of the total hospital costs for all preventable hospitalizations.

Nearly 18% of Medicare admissions were for a potentially preventable condition. Medicare patients comprised \$20.1 billion (67%) of total hospital costs for potentially preventable hospitalizations among adults.

Hospitalization rates for potentially preventable conditions were highest among residents in poorer communities but lowest among residents from wealthier communities. This disparity was particularly evident for uncontrolled diabetes without complications, where the admission rate in the poorest communities was more than 400% higher than in the wealthiest communities.