

## Hospitalization in Santa Clara County 2014

This brief provides information on hospitalization in Santa Clara County. Identifying areas for prevention of hospitalization may help guide community-based program planning and intervention in ways that lower costs and improve community health. A description follows each key measure of hospitalization, along with its importance and the county's status.

### Leading Causes of Hospitalization

#### What is it?

A primary cause of admission is identified for each person who is discharged from a hospital or acute care facility. The most frequent of these are referred to as "leading causes of hospitalization".

#### Why is it important?

Leading causes of hospitalization indicate the most serious illnesses or most common conditions present in a community, and so can guide prevention and support. Hospitalizations are also the part of the healthcare system that uses the most resources.<sup>1</sup> Leading causes of hospitalization provide information that can be used to address costs.

#### What is Santa Clara County's status?

In 2014, more than one-third of hospitalizations in Santa Clara County (34%) were due to pregnancy-related conditions or newborn conditions in the perinatal period. Apart from these conditions, diseases of the circulatory system, musculoskeletal system, and digestive system were the major causes of hospitalizations (25%).

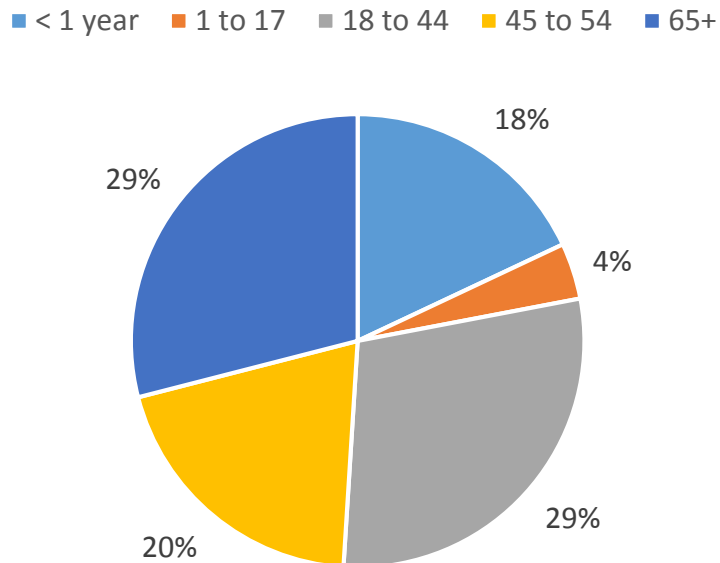
### TOP 10 CAUSES OF HOSPITALIZATIONS

Hospitalization cause	%
<b>PREGNANCY, CHILDBIRTH, &amp; THE PUERPERIUM</b>	17
<b>NEWBORNS AND NEONATE CONDITIONS BEGAN IN PERINATAL PERIOD</b>	17
<b>CIRCULATORY SYSTEM, DISEASES &amp; DISORDERS</b>	9
<b>MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM &amp; CONNECTIVE TISSUE, DISEASES &amp; DISORDERS</b>	8
<b>DIGESTIVE SYSTEM, DISEASES &amp; DISORDERS</b>	7
<b>INFECTIOUS &amp; PARASITIC DISEASES</b>	6
<b>RESPIRATORY SYSTEM, DISEASES &amp; DISORDERS</b>	6
<b>NERVOUS SYSTEM, DISEASES &amp; DISORDERS</b>	5
<b>MENTAL DISEASES &amp; DISORDERS</b>	5
<b>KIDNEY AND URINARY TRACT, DISEASES &amp; DISORDERS</b>	3

Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2014 Patient Discharge Data

Adults ages 18 to 44 and ages 65 and older had the greatest share of hospitalizations by age (29% each).<sup>ii</sup>

#### PERCENTAGE OF HOSPITALIZATIONS BY AGE GROUP



Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2014 Patient Discharge Data

### Prevention Quality Indicators

#### What is it?

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) developed Prevention Quality Indicators (PQIs) as a set of indicators to measure hospital discharges for preventable hospitalizations for ambulatory care sensitive conditions.<sup>iii</sup> Ambulatory care sensitive conditions are conditions for which good quality outpatient care can potentially prevent the need for hospitalization. Early intervention on these conditions can also prevent complications or more severe diseases that may require hospitalization. For example, hypertension (high blood pressure) is a condition that can be treated outside of the hospital with proper medication and management.

#### Why is it important?

PQIs are a way to assess access to a quality healthcare system. Hospitalizations for these conditions can sometimes be prevented through outpatient treatment or may indicate an issue with medication and/or management.<sup>iii</sup>

#### What is Santa Clara County's status?

In 2014, 1,149 per 100,000 residents were hospitalized for preventable conditions. Of the specific health conditions, the most common preventable hospitalizations were for perforated appendix rupture (30,560 per 100,000 residents), followed by COPD or asthma among older adults (322 per 100,000 residents ages 40+), and heart failure (290 per 100,000 residents).

## PREVENTABLE HOSPITALIZATION RATE FOR 16 PREVENTION QUALITY INDICATORS

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Age- and sex-adjusted hospitalization rate per 100,000 people</b>
<b>Preventable hospitalizations-Overall</b>	1,149
<b>Preventable hospitalizations-Chronic</b>	416
<b>Preventable hospitalizations-Acute</b>	733
<b>Diabetes (short term complications)</b>	57
<b>Perforated appendix</b>	30,560
<b>Diabetes (Long term complications)</b>	107
<b>COPD or asthma in older adults (40+)</b>	322
<b>Hypertension</b>	34
<b>Heart failure</b>	290
<b>Dehydration</b>	100
<b>Bacterial pneumonia</b>	178
<b>Urinary tract infection</b>	138
<b>Angina without procedure</b>	17
<b>Uncontrolled diabetes</b>	9
<b>Asthma in younger adults (18-39)</b>	28
<b>Lower extremity amputation among patients with diabetes</b>	15

Source: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2014 Prevention Quality Indicators

### References

- <sup>i</sup> Ferrer, Anna. Causes of Hospitalization among Children. Clinics. vol.65 no.1. 2010.
- <sup>ii</sup> Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, 2014 Patient Discharge Data
- <sup>iii</sup> Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Healthcare Atlas.  
<<http://gis.oshpd.ca.gov/atlas/topics/pqi/statewide>>