

REQUEST:

What are the top 3 reasons for pediatric inpatient hospitalizations by age group in the Greater Houston Area or in TCH?

RESPONSE:

Detailed pediatric inpatient hospitalization data are available in the Texas Health Care Information Collection (THCIC) maintained by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). We have requested access to these data; however, that will take time to process. In the meantime we have put together 2013 Texas state-level data that are available through the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP). [<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/data/hcup/index.html> , accessed 7/27/2016.]

A spreadsheet of the data that were available is attached as an appendix. The spreadsheet has four worksheets, each of which aggregates the diagnosis codes in a different manner. These four are:

- Clinical Classifications Software (CCS), which categorizes patient diagnoses and procedures into a manageable number of clinically meaningful categories. The 12,000 diagnosis codes and 3,500 procedure codes from the International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification (ICD-9-CM) are collapsed into about 260 CCS diagnosis categories and 230 procedure categories. This "clinical grouper" makes it easier to quickly understand patterns of diagnoses and procedures. Each hospital stay can have multiple diagnoses and multiple procedures. CCS was developed at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- ICD-9-CM, which stands for the "International Classification of Diseases - 9th revision - Clinical Modification." All diagnoses (or conditions) and all procedures that patients receive in the hospital are assigned an ICD-9-CM code.
- Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs), which comprise a patient classification system that categorizes patients into groups that are clinically coherent and homogeneous with respect to resource use. DRGs group patients according to diagnosis, type of treatment (procedures), age, and other relevant criteria. Each hospital stay has one DRG and one MDC assigned to it.
- Major Diagnosis Categories (MDCs), which are broad groups of DRGs (Diagnosis Related Groups)



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that relate to an organ or a system (digestive system, for example) and not to an etiology. For example, MDC 01 - Diseases and Disorders of the Nervous System, MDC 02 - Diseases and Disorders of the Eye, MDC 03 - Diseases and Disorders of the Ear, Nose, Mouth and Throat. Each hospital stay has one DRG and one MDC assigned to it.

We have also attached a table of the most recent CDC/HRSA data related to pediatric hospitalizations, which can be used to provide background for the state data. These data are for 2009, and were published in 2011. While the “average number of discharges” may differ from region to region, the basic causes of hospitalization will likely maintain their ranking.