eTable 2. Patient characteristics and characteristics of hospitalizations at freestanding children’s hospitals, higher volume general hospitals, and lower volume general hospitals.\*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Patient characteristics** | **Hospitalizations at freestanding children’s hospitals**  **N=554,458 (45046)**  **28.3%** | | | **Hospitalizations at higher volume general hospitals**  **N=302,708 (48634)**  **15.4%** | | | **p-value comparing hospitalizations at freestanding children’s hospitals and high volume general hospitals** | **Hospitalizations at lower volume general hospitals**  **N=1,105,114 (33585)**  **56.3%** | | | | **p-value comparing hospitalizations at high volume and lower volume general hospitals** |
| **n (SD weighted frequency)** | | **(%)** | **n (SD weighted frequency)** | | **(%)** | **n (SD weighted frequency)** | | | **(%)** |
| Age (years) (median [IQR]) | 3.4 [0-10.8] | | | 4.1 [0.1-11.5] | | | <0.01 | 3.6 [0-11.7] | | | | 0.29 |
| Gender (% female) | 254505 | (20688) | 45.9 | 138413 | (5779) | 45.7 | 0.48 | 505837 | (15310) | | 45.7 | 0.06 |
| Race: \*\* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| White | 233930 | (26349) | 42.2 | 144508 | (13111) | 47.7 | 0.05 | 524369 | (18505) | | 47.5 | 0.44 |
| Black | 80568 | (11739) | 14.5 | 61919 | (5786) | 20.5 |  | 169667 (9068) | | | 15.4 |  |
| Hispanic | 121425 | (21183) | 21.9 | 50991 | (6508) | 16.9 |  | 228030 | (14015) | | 20.6 |  |
| Other | 41190 | (6394) | 7.4 | 27824 | (4260) | 9.2 |  | 105238 | (6315) | | 9.5 |  |
| Insurance status: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Public | 284795 | (25324) | 51.4 | 166499 | (8650) | 55.0 | 0.22 | 573534 | (19099) | | 51.9 | <0.01 |
| Private | 224042 | (21613) | 40.4 | 110458 | (7569) | 36.5 |  | 453104 | (15933) | | 41.0 |  |
| Uninsured | 16355 | (3804) | 3.0 | 5632 | (640) | 1.9 |  | 31634 | (1239) | | 2.9 |  |
| No charge/other/unknown | 29266 | (6789) | 5.3 | 20119 | (3907) | 6.7 |  | 46842 | (2797) | | 4.2 |  |
| Median household income for ZIP code (quartiles): |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| < $38,999 | 164831 | (17016) | 30.1 | 93462 | (7084) | 31.3 | 0.47 | 363677 | (14800) | | 33.9 | 0.38 |
| $39,000-47,999 | 125105 | (10712) | 22.9 | 74213 | (4832) | 24.9 |  | 273016 | (10068) | | 25.4 |  |
| $48,000-62,999 | 134915 | (13999) | 24.7 | 74112 | (4020) | 24.9 |  | 230683 | (8971) | | 21.5 |  |
| >$63,000 | 122164 | (16279) | 22.3 | 56423 | (6751) | 18.9 |  | 206748 | (11590) | | 19.3 |  |
| Medical complexity: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Non-chronic disease | 211089 | (17023) | 38.1 | 120130 | (6266) | 39.7 | 0.06 | 596879 | (15953) | | 54.0 | <0.001 |
| Non-complex chronic disease | 146077 | (12442) | 26.4 | 85797 | (3497) | 28.3 |  | 320274 | (10631) | | 29.0 |  |
| Complex chronic disease | 197292 | (18236) | 35.6 | 96781 | (6559) | 32.0 |  | 187961 | (10264) | | 17.0 |  |
| APR-DRG Severity of illness:\*\*\* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| 1 (lowest severity) | 217202 | (18433) | 39.2 | 130011 | (6638) | 43.0 | <0.01 | 600123 | (16589) | | 54.3 | <0.001 |
| 2 | 202931 | (16864) | 36.6 | 109769 | (4622) | 36.3 |  | 376979 | (12299) | | 34.1 |  |
| 3 | 100566 | (9041) | 18.1 | 46896 | (3534) | 15.5 |  | 100025 | (5050) | | 9.1 |  |
| 4 (highest severity) | 33340 | (3199) | 6.0 | 15829 | (1576) | 5.2 |  | 25919 | (1657) | | 2.4 |  |
| **Hospitalization characteristics:** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Neonatal hospitalization | 39584 | (4274) | 7.1 | 15063 | (1524) | 5.0 | <0.01 | 83450 | (2579) | | 7.6 | <0.001 |
| Admission type: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Elective | 109854 | (13061) | 19.8 | 59350 | (5047) | 19.6 | 0.91 | 196425 | (8907) | | 17.9 | 0.21 |
| Length of stay in days (median [IQR]) | 2.2(0.06) [1.1-4.7] | | | 2.0(0.2) [0.9-4.3] | | | <0.001 | 1.7 (0.7) [0.8-3.3] | | | | <0.001 |
| High turnover hospitalizations | 130441 | (12405) | 23.5 | 85419 | (4805) | 28.2 | <0.01 | 331371 | | (9620) | 30.0 | 0.15 |
| Length of stay >4 days | 161804 | (14354) | 29.2 | 80955 | (5331) | 26.7 | 0.09 | 217360 | | (9363) | 19.7 | <0.001 |
| Admission source: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Transfer from another acute care hospital | 82118 | (8952) | 14.8 | 50381 | (4779) | 16.6 | 0.69 | 103677 | | (6469) | 9.4 | <0.001 |
| Direct admission | 211117 | (20203) | 38.1 | 110533 | (8263) | 36.5 |  | 439591 | | (15668) | 39.8 |  |
| Admission from ED | 261223 | (28708) | 47.1 | 141794 | (8141) | 46.8 |  | 561846 | | (18382) | 50.8 |  |
| Discharge status: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |
| Routine | 519785 | (42613) | 93.8 | 275144 | (11156) | 90.9 | <0.01 | 1021495 | | (31177) | 92.4 | <0.001 |
| Transfer to another hospital or healthcare facility | 13035 | (1437) | 2.4 | 8703 | (843) | 2.9 |  | 47412 | | (1423) | 4.3 |  |
| Discharge against medical advice | 382 | (70) | 0.1 | 267 | (46) | 0.1 |  | 2525 | | (176) | 0.2 |  |
| Other \*\*\*\* | 21256 | (4501) | 3.8 | 18594 | (2221) | 6.1 |  | 33682 | | (2236) | 3.1 |  |

\* higher volume general hospitals defined as those with >5838 hospitalizations/year, equal to the 25th percentile for freestanding children’s hospital volume

\*\*race/ethnicity data missing for approximately 8% of discharge records8

\*\*\* APR-DRG severity of 0 for 0.1% of discharge records

\*\*\*\* includes in-hospital death, discharge destination unknown