

Health Disparities in the Medi-Cal Population

Preventable Hospitalizations



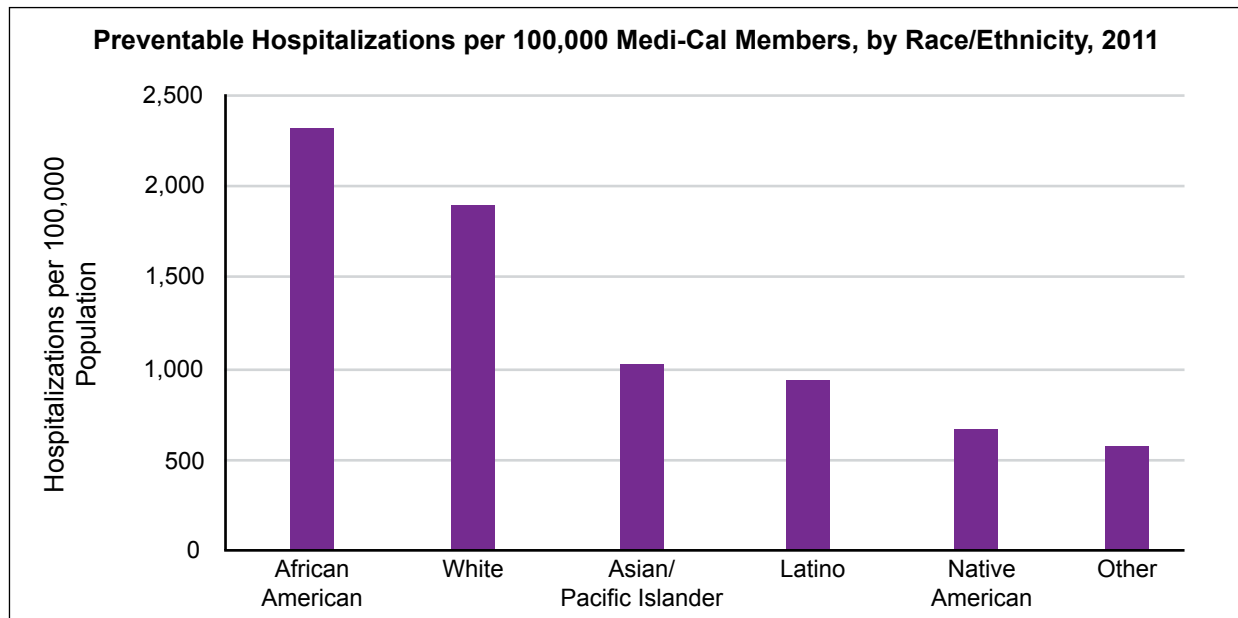
When conditions like diabetes, congestive heart failure, and asthma are managed properly in ambulatory care settings, fewer people experience acute complications that require inpatient hospitalization.¹ Thus, many hospitalizations are preventable as a result of better access to high-quality outpatient care.²

The *Let's Get Healthy California Task Force Final Report* provided an overall California rate of 1,243 preventable hospitalizations per 100,000 people (age-sex adjusted).³ For the Medi-Cal population, however, the unadjusted preventable hospitalization rate was slightly higher at 1,290 per 100,000.⁴



Preventable hospitalizations for the Medi-Cal population are presented by race/ethnicity in the Figure below. African Americans had the highest rates, followed by Whites, Asians/Pacific Islanders, Latinos, Native Americans, and Others.

Figure



Source: Numerators: Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) Patient Discharge Data, 2011; Denominators: Medi-Cal MIS/DSS, 2011.

Note: Rates produced from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Prevention Quality Indicators Composite, Version 4.4. Members eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid were excluded.

1. Oster A, Bindman AB. Emergency department visits for ambulatory care sensitive conditions: Insights into preventable hospitalizations. *Med Care*. 2003;41(2):198-207.
2. Caminal J, Starfield B, Sánchez E, Casanova C, Morales M. The role of primary care in preventing ambulatory care sensitive conditions. *Eur J Public Health*. 2004;14(3):246-251.
3. Let's Get Healthy California Task Force Final Report. <http://www.chhs.ca.gov/Documents/Let%27s%20Get%20Healthy%20California%20Task%20Force%20Final%20Report.pdf>. Published December 19, 2013. Accessed February 25, 2013.
4. Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), Patient Discharge Data, 2011.

Link to Data Sources and Methods