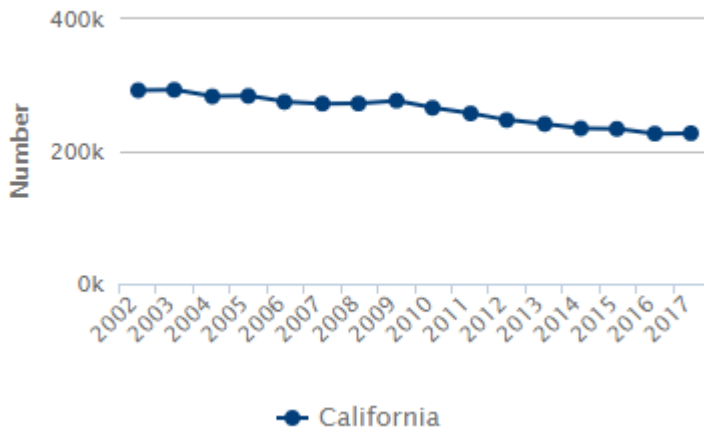


Childhood Hospitalizations in California

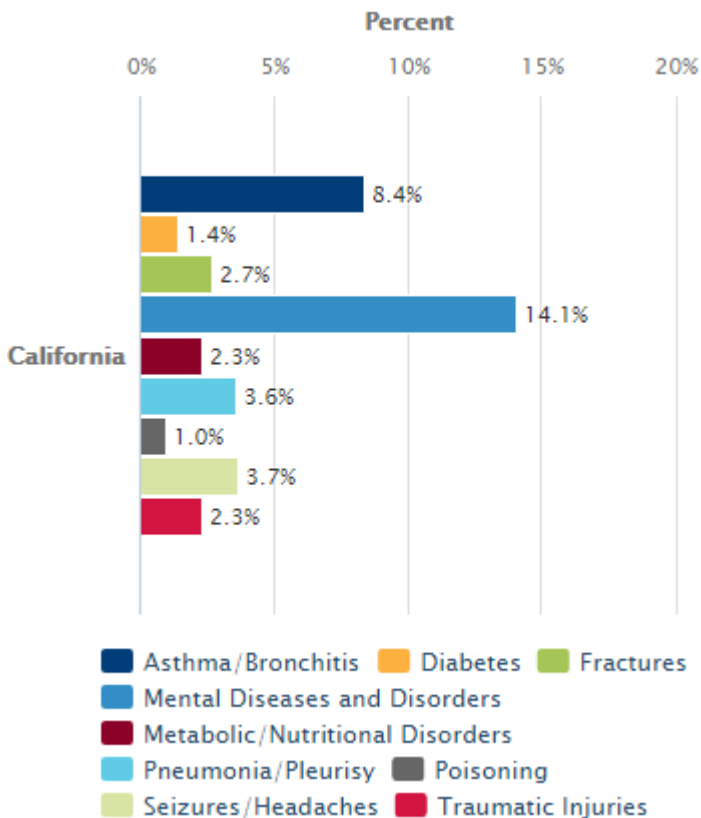
Number of Hospital Discharges



Definition: Number of hospital discharges among children ages 0-17, excluding newborns (e.g., in 2017, there were 227,432 hospital discharges among California children).

Data Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development custom tabulation (Jul. 2018).

Hospital Discharges, by Primary Diagnosis: 2017



What It Is

On kidsdata.org, hospitalization measures reflect hospital visits in which a child is admitted for an overnight stay that includes tests, monitoring, and observation, after which they are discharged. Visits for childbirth and visits to the emergency room that do not result in admission are excluded. Data are presented for hospital discharges overall, the most common primary diagnoses for hospital stays, and sources of payment for hospitalization expenses.

Why This Topic Is Important

All children should have high-quality, accessible, and affordable health care, including hospital stays when needed. Children with special health care needs, in particular, may require more frequent hospitalizations and specialized, intensive medical care. Ensuring that all children have consistent access to affordable, evidence-based, well-coordinated, and family-centered care—all within the context of a medical home—can maximize positive outcomes.

Hospitalization indicators on kidsdata.org are based on hospital discharges. These data can be useful to illuminate public safety and health trends and can inform injury prevention and disease surveillance. For example, asthma is one of the most common diagnoses for hospital stays among children, statewide and nationally. Research examining hospital discharge data has found that asthmatic children living in neighborhoods with high levels of overcrowding and poverty are more likely to be re-admitted for hospital care than those living in less-disadvantaged areas. Asthmatic children covered by Medicaid instead of private insurance also are more likely to be re-admitted for care.

How Children Are Faring

In 2017 there were 227,432 hospital discharges among California children ages 0-17, 22% fewer than fifteen years earlier. Nearly one in seven (14%) of these hospital stays were for a primary diagnosis of mental disease or disorder, followed by asthma/bronchitis (8%), pneumonia/pleurisy (4%), and seizures/headaches (4%). Although mental diseases and disorders have been the most common cause of childhood hospitalization statewide since 2008, there is wide variation across regions. For example, in 2017, the percentage of discharges for mental diseases and disorders among children in San Mateo County was more than 11 times greater than

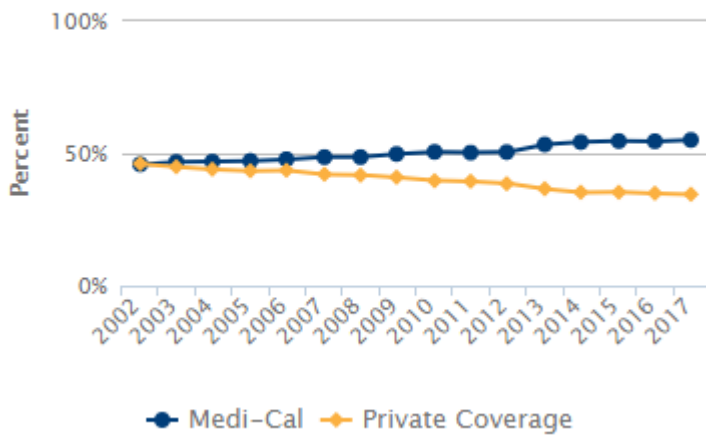
Definition: Percentage of hospital discharges among children ages 0-17 for the ten most common primary diagnoses, excluding childbirth (e.g., among hospital discharges for California children in 2017, 2.3% were for a primary diagnosis of traumatic injury).
Data Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development custom tabulation (Apr. 2019).

Hospital Discharges, by Source of Payment: 2017

California	Percent
Medi-Cal	55.1%
Other Government Program	7.7%
Private Coverage	34.5%
Self Pay	2.0%

Definition: Percentage of hospital discharges among children ages 0-17, excluding newborns, by source of payment (e.g., among hospital discharges for California children in 2017, Medi-Cal covered the expenses for 55.1% of those hospitalizations).
Data Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development custom tabulation (Apr. 2019).

Hospital Discharges, by Source of Payment California



Definition: Percentage of hospital discharges among children ages 0-17, excluding newborns, by source of payment (e.g., among hospital discharges for California children in 2017, Medi-Cal covered the expenses for 55.1% of those hospitalizations).
Data Source: California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development custom tabulation (Apr. 2019).

the percentage for children in Imperial County.

Among California children discharged in 2017, Medi-Cal covered the hospitalization expenses for more than half (55%) of these visits, compared with about one-third (35%) for private insurance. Since 2002, the percentage of visits with costs covered by private insurers has decreased, while the percentage with costs covered by Medi-Cal has increased.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:
<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/52/hospitalizations/summary>



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