

# Utah Health Status Update:

## *Hospitalizations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions*

August 1997

Utah Department of Health

Rates of preventable hospitalizations can help to identify problems in the primary care delivery system for an area or population. A recent Utah Department of Health report, *Hospitalizations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions in Utah*, examined hospitalization rates for eighteen such conditions for Utah's 12 local health district areas. Some of the key findings of that report were:

- The most common conditions were bacterial pneumonia, congestive heart failure, diabetes, and asthma.
- The hospitalization rate for bacterial pneumonia was significantly higher than the state rate in six health districts, including all of the predominantly rural, multi-county health districts.
- Substantial differences were apparent in the patterns of hospitalization by health district.

These data can be used in two ways. First, high rates for one or more conditions may indicate a problem with access to quality outpatient medical care for people living in that area. An access problem could be due to inadequate availability of primary care providers or to low rates of insurance coverage, for example. Second, a high rate for a particular condition might indicate an opportunity to improve care for that condition. For example, a high asthma hospitalization rate might be reduced by improving primary care providers' knowledge of current asthma management, availability of specialty consultation, or continuity of care for patients seen in emergency rooms.

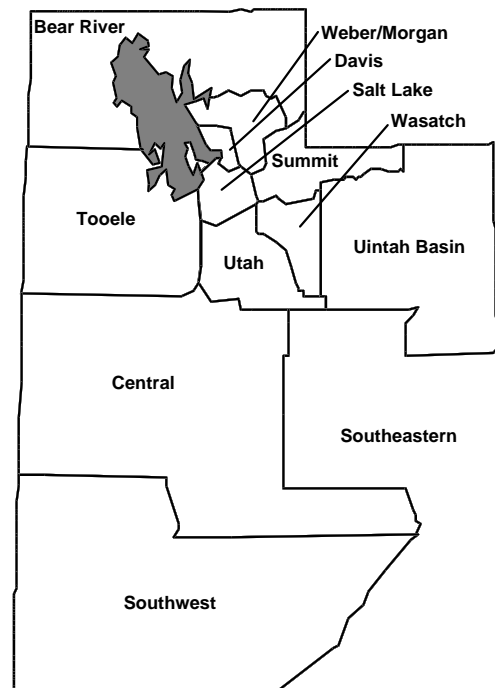
### Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions

Numbers of hospitalizations and statewide hospitalization rates per 10,000 persons per year for 18 ambulatory care sensitive conditions, Utah 1993-1994

Category of Diseases	Discharges*	Rate
Bacterial pneumonia	4,547	24.0
Congestive heart failure	2,215	11.7
Diabetes	1,697	9.0
Diabetes-acute metabolic complications	542	2.9
Diabetes-other	592	3.1
Asthma	1,480	7.8
Dehydration	1,431	7.6
Pyelonephritis/Urinary infection	1,325	7.0
Perforated or bleeding ulcer	1,047	5.5
Angina	920	4.9
Cellulitis	910	4.8
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	852	4.5
Appendicitis with rupture	602	3.2
Severe E.N.T. infections	522	2.8
Convulsions	407	2.2
Gastroenteritis	226	1.2
Epilepsy	130	0.7
Hypertension	113	0.6
Invasive cervical cancer	81	0.4

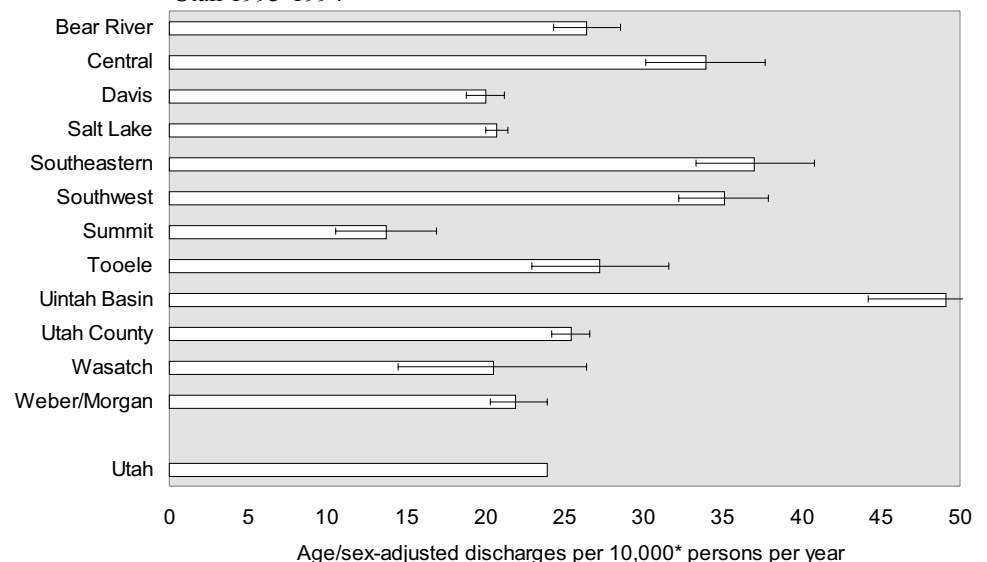
\* Discharges by first diagnosis.

### Utah's Local Health Districts



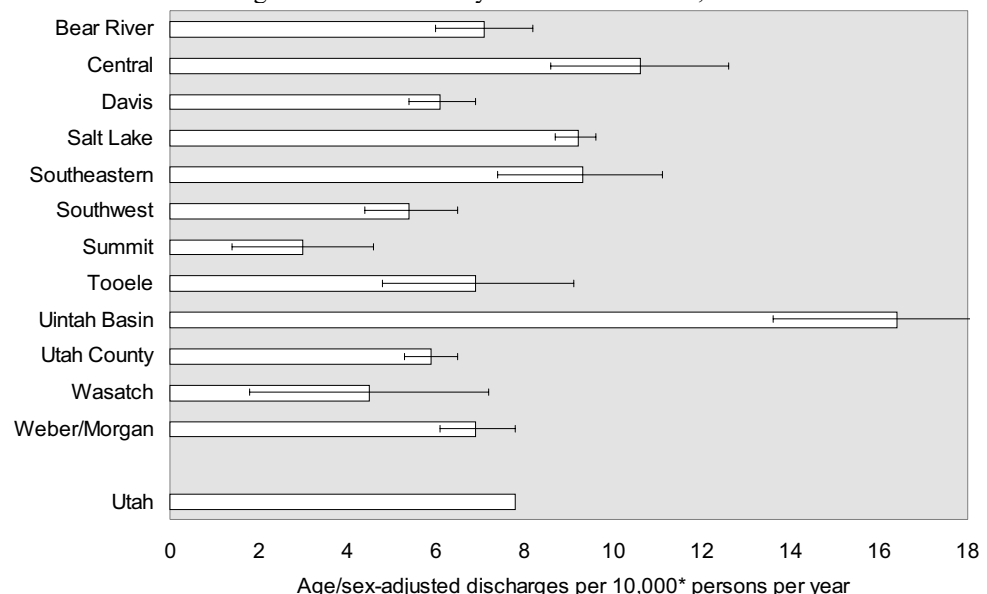
### Bacterial Pneumonia

Discharge rates for bacterial pneumonia by local health district, Utah 1993-1994



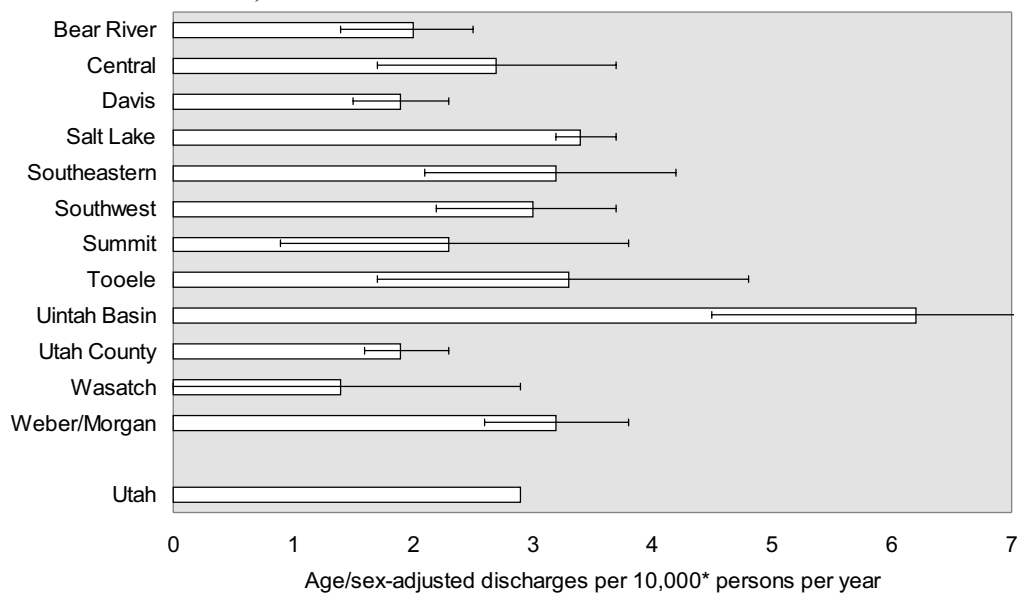
### Asthma

Discharge rates for asthma by local health district, Utah 1993-1994



## Diabetes

Discharge rates for acute metabolic complications of diabetes by local health district, Utah 1993-1994



## Health District Summaries

Numbers of ambulatory care sensitive conditions for which rates in that local health district were significantly higher or lower than the Utah rates, 1993-1994.

Local Health District	Number of Conditions	
	Higher* than State Rate	Lower* than State Rate
Bear River	2	6
Central	5	2
Davis	0	7
Salt Lake	6	5
Southeastern	4	1
Southwest	4	2
Summit	0	13
Tooele	1	0
Uintah Basin	10	0
Utah County	3	6
Wasatch	0	4
Weber/Morgan	3	3

\* significantly higher or lower

## Utah Health Status Update

The data for this update came from the recently released report *Hospitalizations for Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions in Utah*. The report was produced jointly by the Bureau of Surveillance and Analysis, Office of Public Health Data and the Office of Health Data Analysis using data from the Utah Hospital Discharge Data File (1993, 1994). After publication of this report, the name of Uintah Basin Health District was changed to Tri County Health District. The complete report is available on the Internet at <http://hlunix.hl.state.ut.us/action2000/reports.html> and copies can be obtained from the Office of Public Health Data (801) 538-6108 or email: [hlhda.phdata@state.ut.us](mailto:hlhda.phdata@state.ut.us).



Office of Public Health Data  
 Utah Department of Health  
 288 North 1460 West  
 Box 142875  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2875

