Hospitalization data are an important means of assessing patterns and rates of non-fatal illness. Children are hospitalized for different conditions than are adults. A recent report by the Health Data Committee and the Office of Health Care Statistics examined the frequencies and charges for the most common reasons for which children are hospitalized. This Health Status Update presents highlights from that report.

- During 1993-1997, there were 118,864 (non-newborn) discharges of Utah residents age 0-19 years, or about 23,800 per year. Those discharges resulted in over $866 million (> $170 million per year) in hospital charges. This report focused on 20 conditions (discharge diagnoses) that accounted for 75,400 discharges or 63.4% of all non-newborn discharges of Utahns age 0-19.

### Most Common Reasons for Hospitalization

Average numbers of hospital discharges per year for selected conditions, Utah residents age 0-19, 1993-1997.

- Vaginal delivery
- Unintentional injuries
- Depression
- Bronchiolitis / bronchitis
- Pneumonia
- Asthma
- Dehydration
- Acute appendicitis
- Cesarean delivery
- Gastroenteritis

- Average charge per hospitalization was highest for manic-depressive illness ($11,093 per discharge), behavior disorders ($9,625), and injuries due to assault ($9,488).
- In the age group 0-19 years, females had higher hospitalization rates than males (354.4 per 10,000 vs. 283.4 per 10,000). When hospitalizations for deliveries were excluded, the rate for females for all other conditions was somewhat lower (260.2 per 10,000) than for males.

### Reasons for Hospitalization by Age

Average numbers of hospital discharges per year for selected conditions by age group, Utah residents age 0-19, 1993-1997.

- The most common reasons for hospitalization of Utahns age 0-19 were vaginal delivery and unintentional injuries (see figure).
- The conditions resulting in the most total hospital charges were unintentional injuries (12% of charges in this age group), pneumonia, and depression (see figure).

- The reasons for hospitalization varied somewhat by age. Pneumonia and bronchiolitis/bronchitis were most common for children 0 to 4, unintentional injuries for children age 5 to 14, and vaginal deliveries for those age 15 to 19.

### Hospital Charges by Condition

Average total hospital charges (thousands of dollars) per year for selected conditions, Utah residents age 0-19, 1993-1997.

- Unintentional injuries
- Pneumonia
- Depression
- Vaginal delivery
- Acute appendicitis
- Bronchiolitis / bronchitis

- Nearly 10% of charges for hospitalizations of Utahns age 0-19 were for mental health/behavioral conditions (depression, behavior disorder, manic-depressive, substance abuse).
- There was appreciable variation in rates of hospitalization of children among the 12 local health districts and among 61 Utah small areas (based on zip code or county of residence). For example, the rate for pneumonia varied from...
October Utah Health Status Update

Examining hospitalization rates for children can help with health assessment in that age group. Variations in hospitalization rates by community of residence can help identify problems such as access to ambulatory pediatric care. Variations in hospitalization rates for children can help with health assessment in that age group. Variations in hospitalization rates by community of residence can help identify problems such as access to ambulatory pediatric care.

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