

LEADING CAUSES OF HOSPITALIZATION FOR AI/AN

The following describes the top principal diagnoses among AI/AN hospital patients, with comparisons to NHW hospital patients. Highlighted cells indicate a statistically significant difference (chi-square test, $p < .05$).

OVERALL

- Overall, male AI/AN patients had more hospitalizations for conditions of the perinatal period, diseases of the digestive system, and injury and poisoning, when compared with male NHW patients.
- Female AI/AN patients had more hospitalizations for complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium, and for conditions of the perinatal period, when compared with female NHW patients.

Rank: Males		AI/AN	NHW
All ages	1 Perinatal conditions	14.2%	9.8%
	2 Digestive system diseases	12.4%	10.5%
	3 Injury & poisoning	12.1%	10.8%

Rank: Females		AI/AN	NHW
All ages	1 Pregnancy & childbirth	25.7%	17.7%
	2 Digestive system diseases	9.4%	9.5%
	3 Perinatal conditions	8.3%	6.8%

<1 YEAR OLD

Rank: Both sexes		AI/AN	NHW
<1 yr	1 Perinatal conditions	85.4%	90.9%
	2 Respiratory system diseases	7.9%	2.7%
	3 Congenital anomalies	1.9%	1.8%

- Among hospitalizations AI/AN infants and babies under 1 year old, there were more hospitalizations for conditions of the perinatal period and for diseases of the respiratory system, when compared with NHW in the same age category.

1-<15 YEARS OLD

Rank: Both sexes		AI/AN	NHW
1 to <15 yrs	1 Respiratory system diseases	23.0%	17.0%
	2 Injury & poisoning	18.0%	12.3%
	3 Digestive system diseases	11.7%	12.9%

- Among hospitalizations of AI/AN children ages 1 to under 15 years old, more were due to diseases of the respiratory system, as well as injury and poisoning, when compared to NHW children patients in the same age category.

15-<25 YEARS OLD

- Female AI/AN patients ages 15 to under 25 years old had more hospitalizations for complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium when compared to female NHW patients in the same age range.
- Female AI/AN patients in this age category had fewer hospitalizations for diseases of the digestive system, as well as for injury and poisoning, when compared to female NHW patients in the same age range.

Rank: Males		AI/AN	NHW
15 to <25 yrs	1 Injury & poisoning	22.3%	22.9%
	2 Digestive system diseases	15.5%	13.8%
	3 Endocrine/immunity disorders	6.8%	5.7%

Rank: Females		AI/AN	NHW
15 to <25 yrs	1 Pregnancy & childbirth	70.2%	61.5%
	2 Digestive system diseases	4.3%	5.6%
	3 Injury & poisoning	3.7%	4.9%

LEADING CAUSES OF HOSPITALIZATION FOR AI/AN

25-<40 YEARS OLD

- Female AI/AN patients ages 25 to under 40 years old had fewer hospitalizations for complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium when compared to female NHW patients in the same age range.
- Female AI/AN patients in this age category had more hospitalizations for injury and poisoning when compared to female NHW patients in the same age category.

Rank: Males		AI/AN	NHW
25 to <40 yrs	1 Injury & poisoning	19.4%	17.8%
	2 Digestive system diseases	18.0%	15.9%
	3 Skin & subcutaneous tissue	6.0%	6.3%

Rank: Females		AI/AN	NHW
25 to <40 yrs	1 Pregnancy & childbirth	54.2%	64.7%
	2 Digestive system diseases	5.9%	5.8%
	3 Injury & poisoning	5.4%	4.1%

40-<65 YEARS OLD

- AI/AN patients ages 40 to under 65 years old, of both genders, had more hospitalizations for diseases of the digestive system when compared with their NHW counterparts in the same age range.
- Female AI/AN patients in this age category had more hospitalizations for diseases of the respiratory system when compared with female NHW patients in the same age category.

Rank: Males		AI/AN	NHW
40 to <65 yrs	1 Circulatory system diseases	17.4%	18.7%
	2 Digestive system diseases	15.6%	12.3%
	3 Injury & poisoning	12.5%	12.2%

Rank: Females		AI/AN	NHW
40 to <65 yrs	1 Digestive system diseases	16.2%	13.2%
	2 Respiratory system diseases	12.1%	8.1%
	3 Circulatory system diseases	11.5%	11.0%

65 YEARS AND OLDER

- AI/AN patients ages 65 years and older, of both genders, had more hospitalizations for diseases of the respiratory system when compared with their NHW counterparts of the same age range.
- Male AI/AN patients in this age category had more hospitalizations for diseases of the digestive system, when compared with male NHW patients in the same age category.

Rank: Males		AI/AN	NHW
65+ yrs	1 Circulatory system diseases	23.9%	26.9%
	2 Respiratory system diseases	14.7%	11.7%
	3 Digestive system diseases	10.5%	10.1%

Rank: Females		AI/AN	NHW
65+ yrs	1 Circulatory system diseases	22.1%	22.7%
	2 Respiratory system diseases	14.3%	11.3%
	3 Digestive system diseases	12.0%	10.9%

* **Note:** The top principal diagnoses for AI/AN in the youngest age ranges did not differ by sex, and thus are presented together.



DISCHARGE STATUS

Discharge status	AI/AN	NHW
Routine	82.3%	73.7%
Transferred	16.1%	24.3%
Expired/died	1.6%	2.0%

- AI/AN patients were less often transferred to another facility, and were more often routinely discharged to home when compared with NHW patients.
- Fewer AI/AN hospitalizations ended with hospital deaths than NHW. This may be due to several reasons, including a younger age distribution among AI/AN hospitalizations, the causes for hospitalization, AI/AN having died before getting to the hospital, or choosing to not go to a hospital.

DEFINITIONS

AI/AN: American Indian/Alaska Native

IHS: Indian Health Service

Mean: Average

NHW: Non-Hispanic White

Principal diagnosis: The condition considered to be the main reason for the hospitalization event

Puerperium: The period of time between childbirth and the uterus returning to its normal size

DATA NOTES

- Data source: Washington Comprehensive Hospital Abstract Reporting System (CHARS) 2011.
- AI/AN are often misclassified as another race or are missing race data in hospital discharge databases, obscuring true estimates of health indicators. The IDEA-NW Project corrected misclassified AI/AN CHARS records through record linkage with the Northwest Tribal Registry. This fact sheet presents race-corrected data from the project.
- Total of 14,472 AI/AN and 371,418 NHW records.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

The Improving Data & Enhancing Access - Northwest (IDEA-NW) Project:

- **Project E-mail:** ideanw@npaih.org
- **Web:** www.npaihb.org/epicenter/project/improving_data_enhancing_access_northwest_idea_nw

