

Drug Overdose and Substance Use Hospitalizations

MINNESOTA HOSPITAL DISCHARGE DATA

Description

Data for drug overdose and substance use hospitalizations come from the Minnesota Hospital Discharge Database provided by the Minnesota Hospital Association. Data are provided quarterly to the Minnesota Department of Health. These data include all inpatient and emergency department hospital treatments at acute care, non-federal in-state hospitals and some border hospitals. Stand-alone psychiatric facilities are not included; however, psychiatric admissions within a hospital are included. There are 147 hospitals in Minnesota, including non-acute care facilities; 137 are members of the Minnesota Hospital Association; 135 are included in the all-age injury hospital discharge database at the Minnesota Department of Health. There are a small number of hospitals who are not members of the Minnesota Hospital Association that will not be in the data.

Strengths

The data represent a majority of hospitalizations for drug overdose and substance use in Minnesota, regardless of the insurance carrier or payer. The data are also de-duplicated prior to analysis, which results in the removal of counting an individual hospitalization more than once.

Limitations

Hospital discharge data are primarily intended for billing purposes, not public health surveillance. The data also do not currently contain race or ethnicity. The transition to ICD-10-CM in the final quarter of 2015 (October – December 2015) makes comparisons inaccurate, if not impossible, to previous years. Trend data are available beginning in 2016 and moving forward because of the difficulty and caution needed in comparing data to previous years.