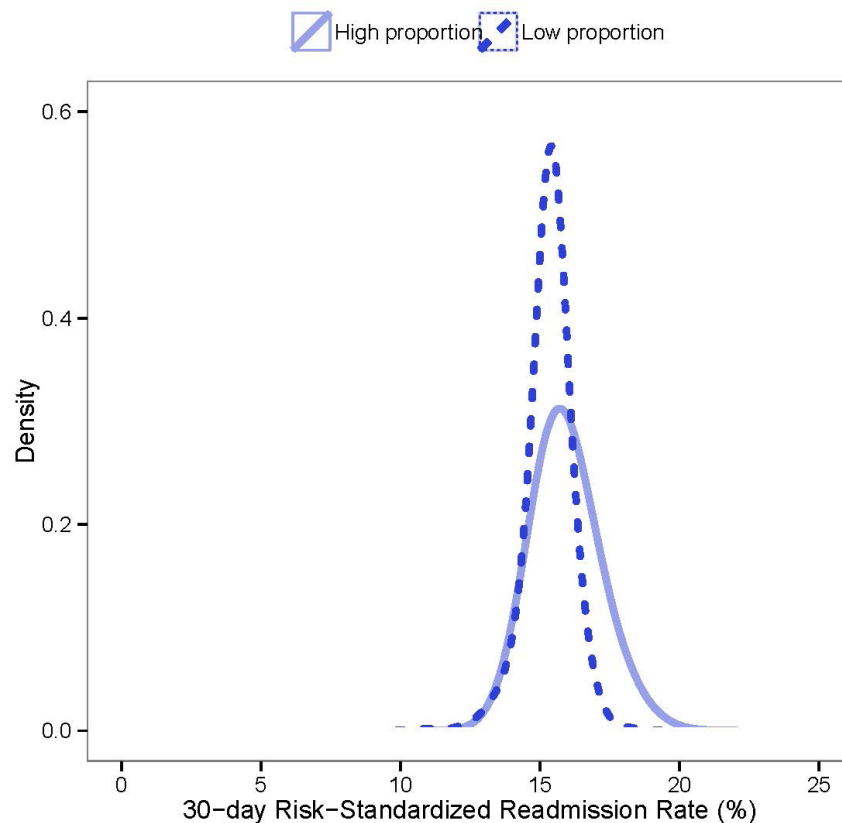


SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC STATUS

► **Performance on the hospital-wide readmission measure:** Hospitals that serve high and low proportions of Medicaid patients.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically investigates select hospital practices that may impact a hospital's performance on the following readmission measure: hospital-wide all-cause unplanned readmission measure for Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older [1, 2]. The hospital-wide readmission measure assesses the occurrence of unplanned readmission for any cause within 30 days after discharge from hospitalization for admissions admitted for any condition or procedure [2]. The hospital-wide readmission measure has been publicly reported on [Hospital Compare](#) since 2013 [3].

FIGURE I. Distributions of hospital-wide RSRRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid admissions, July 2014-June 2015.



Variation in risk-standardized readmission rates (RSRRs) reflects differences in performance among hospitals; lower RSRRs suggest better quality and higher RSRRs suggest worse quality. To understand how caring for Medicaid patients might impact a hospital's RSRR, we examined RSRRs among hospitals with high and low proportions of Medicaid patients. We compared the hospital-wide RSRRs for the 449 hospitals with the lowest overall proportion of Medicaid admissions ($\leq 4.4\%$ of a hospital's admissions) to the 450 hospitals with the highest overall proportion of Medicaid admissions ($\geq 28.3\%$ of a hospital's admissions) for the July 2014 - June 2015 reporting period. We defined hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid admissions as those that fall within the lowest and highest deciles of all hospitals with 25 or more qualifying discharges. The proportion of Medicaid admissions for each hospital was determined using the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey Database Fiscal Year 2014 [4]. To ensure accurate assessment of each hospital, the hospital-wide readmission measure uses a statistical model to adjust for key differences in patient risk factors that are clinically relevant and that have a strong relationship with the readmission outcome [2].

Prepared for CMS by Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation – Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (YNHHC/CORE) September 2016

TABLE I. Distributions of hospital-wide RSRRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid admissions, July 2014-June 2015.

	Hospital-wide RSRR (%)	
	Lowest proportion ($\leq 4.4\%$) Medicaid admissions; n=449	Highest proportion ($\geq 28.3\%$) Medicaid admissions; n=450
Maximum	18.2	19.4
90%	16.1	17.3
75%	15.7	16.5
Median (50%)	15.4	15.7
25%	15.0	15.2
10%	14.5	14.9
Minimum	10.8	13.6

The median hospital-wide RSRR for hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid admissions was 15.4% (interquartile range [IQR]: 15.0%- 15.7%; Figure 1 and Table 1). The median hospital-wide RSRR for hospitals with the highest proportion of Medicaid admissions was 15.7% (IQR: 15.2%- 16.5%; Figure 1 and Table 1).

Hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid admissions had a median hospital-wide RSRR that was 0.3 percentage points lower than hospitals with the highest proportion.

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2. Karen Dorsey, Jacqueline N. Grady, Leora I. Horwitz, et al. 2016 All-Cause Hospital-Wide Measure Updates and Specifications Report: Hospital-Level 30-Day Risk-Standardized Readmission Measure – Version 5.0. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1219069855841>. Accessed May 9, 2016.
3. Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program Overview. QualityNet website. <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier2&cid=1138115987129>. Accessed March 1, 2016.
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