

Environmental Scan of Emergency Department Referral Services



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BACKGROUND

- There is a substantial need for home and community services (H&CS) for the care of older adults in the United States (US).
- To identify contextual factors that may influence access to care, we conducted an environmental scan to identify H&CS for the care of older adults within the hospital service area (HSA) of 16 hospitals across the US.

METHODS

- We searched Medicare and state department of health databases, and national professional healthcare organization websites to identify H&CS.
- We compared our list of services against Center for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) National Provider Lists to develop a comprehensive list of H&CS.
- We identified H&CS within the HSA of each hospital by linking organization zip codes to HSA zip codes.
- We linked population, demographic, and income data using zip code tabulation areas from the US Census Bureau to calculate descriptive variables for each HSA.

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Table 1: Hospital Service Area Characteristics and Available Nursing Homes Around Various US Hospitals

	Allegheny General Hosp.	Baystate Med Center	Beaumont Royal Oak	Brigham Women's Hosp.	Christiana Hosp.	Henry Ford Hosp.	Mayo Clinic St. Mary's	MD Anderson	Ochsner Med Center	Wexner Med Center	University Hosp. Newark	UCSF Med Center Parnassus	UF Health Shands Hosp.	Hosp. of University of Penn	University of Utah Hosp.	Yale New Haven Hosp.
Hospital Service Areas																
State	PA	MA	MI	MA	DE	MI	MN	TX	LA	OH	NJ	CA	FL	PA	UT	CT
HSA Population	1,087,051	313,677	329,281	906,088	544,523	792,913	210,565	4,608,762	489,169	1,580,785	317,633	874,961	414,046	1,778,729	1,252,941	409,354
HSA Pop. >65	196,806	50,320	58,929	113,304	83,455	110,585	32,845	473,082	70,368	190,340	34,288	134,981	68,606	252,505	130,930	66,990
Population White (%)	81.39	76.66	72.36	57.09	63.94	22.69	86.89	59.09	39.80	69.70	25.68	46.41	74.35	46.58	80.19	66.78
Pop. Black/AA (%)	11.53	11.89	17.68	20.24	25.33	69.96	4.65	20.40	52.64	19.65	53.84	5.21	17.34	36.67	1.78	17.88
Average Household Income	95,116	76,060	129,987	131,685	101,454	48,818	90,191	93,976	70,712	87,216	51,106	162,490	63,364	95,531	98,560	111,920
CMS Nursing Homes																
CMS Total Nursing Homes (N)	58	19	11	31	27	31	20	90	20	69	8	19	18	65	34	22
Total Certified Beds	7478	2521	1383	3834	2639	4056	1180	10975	2914	6618	1738	2381	2131	9258	2995	2543
Beds/1000 Persons Total Pop.	6.88	8.04	4.20	4.23	4.85	5.12	5.60	2.38	5.96	4.19	5.47	2.72	5.15	5.20	2.39	6.21
Beds/1000 Persons >65	38.00	50.10	23.47	33.84	31.62	36.68	35.93	23.20	41.41	34.77	50.69	17.64	31.06	36.66	22.87	37.96

RESULTS

- We searched 14 national databases and 96 state databases in addition to the CMS National Provider Lists. Services identified include assisted living, skilled nursing care/nursing homes, hospice, adult day care, rehab/short term care, home health, home care, long-term/chronic care hospitals,.
- Average number of total H&CS per site is 608 services (range 56-2295).
- When considering nursing homes (Table 1), the average number of certified beds/1000 persons total HSA population is 4.91 (SD 1.59, Range 2.38-8.04).
- The average number of certified beds/1000 persons >65 years old is 34.12 (SD 9.22, Range 17.64-50.69).
- A trend was identified showing less available beds with increasing average household income.

CONCLUSIONS

- This study highlights the utility of an environmental scan to identify contextual factors related to access to healthcare services.
- Future analyses can build on our results to implement strategies to reduce barriers to care and improve access to H&CS for older adults.

