

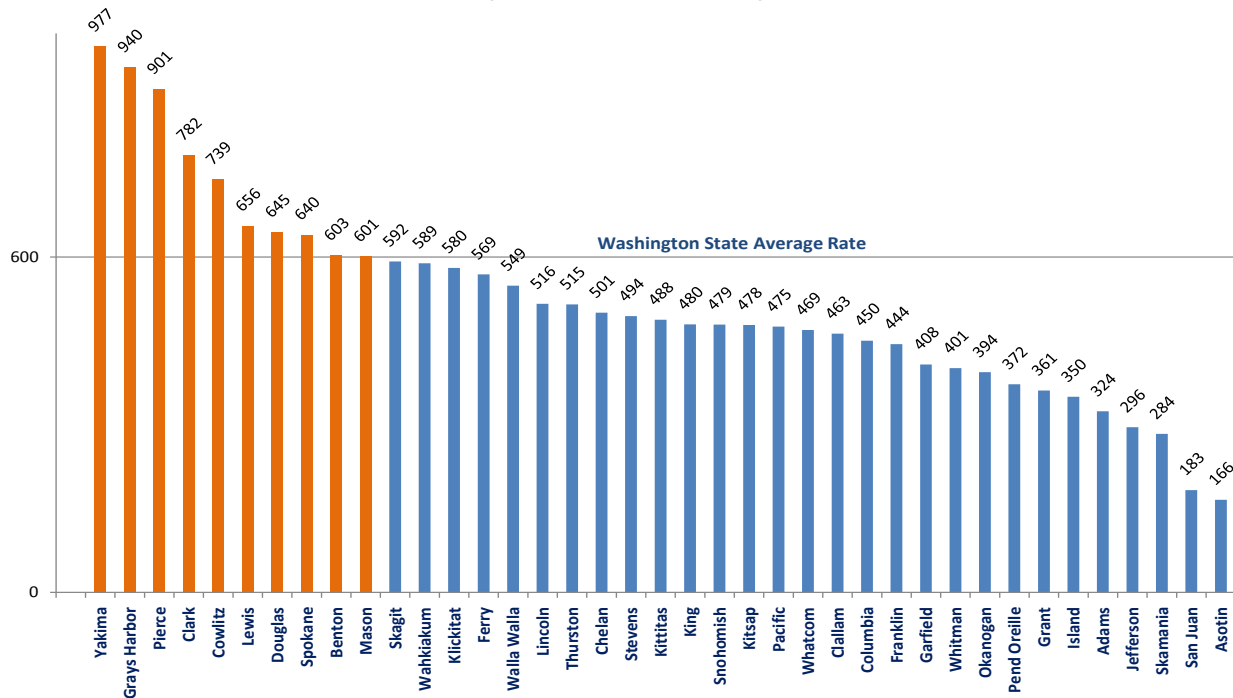
Washington State MONAHRQ Factsheet

Six-Fold Difference in High and Low County Rates of Potentially Avoidable Hospital Stays for Chronic Conditions in 2012¹

Washington state residents received inpatient care in over 600,000 hospital stays annually from 2010 to 2012. Some of these hospitalizations are considered potentially avoidable, however, because with appropriate primary care the patients with these conditions should not end up in the hospital. Among these conditions are a set that can be characterized as chronic.² The latest data from the Washington State MONAHRQ suggest that in 2012 six percent of hospitalizations by Washington’s adult residents were for chronic conditions that could potentially have been avoided.³ When shown as a population rate, there were about 600 such hospital stays per 100,000 adults statewide.⁴

The rate for potentially avoidable hospital stays for chronic conditions varies among the 39 counties in Washington. It ranges from the lowest rate of 166 hospital stays per 100,000 adults (in Asotin County) to the highest rate, about six times as high, of 977 stays per 100,000 adults (in Yakima County).

**County Rates of Avoidable Hospital Stays for Chronic Conditions, 2012
(Per 100,000 Adults)**



¹ The Washington State MONAHRQ (www.wamonahrq.net), also known as WAMONAHRQ, was used as the source for data presented in this factsheet. Currently, WAMONAHRQ contains data for 2010, 2011, and 2012.

² For information on these chronic conditions, visit http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov/Modules/PQI_TechSpec.aspx and select “PQI 92 Prevention Quality Chronic Composite.”

³ In this factsheet and in WAMONAHRQ as well, hospital inpatients refer to Washington residents hospitalized in community hospitals in Washington and Oregon. Non-Washington residents hospitalized in Washington hospitals were excluded.

⁴ Throughout the factsheet, the rates for avoidable hospital stays due to chronic conditions are risk-adjusted.

Approximately one-fourth of the 39 counties had a rate of potentially avoidable hospital stays above the state average rate of 600. These counties are home to about one-third of the state's adult population, but accounted for about one half of the state's potentially avoidable hospital stays for chronic conditions in 2012. Geographically, these counties span both eastern and western parts of the state, and both rural and urban regions.

As these hospital stays are potentially avoidable, reductions in such hospital stays can lead to potential cost savings. A reduction of 25 percent statewide could potentially yield a total of \$76 million in cost savings in inpatient care. For Yakima County, that would mean \$2.8 million in cost savings.⁵

For questions on the Washington State MONAHRQ and this factsheet, please contact at wei.yen@ofm.wa.gov.

⁵ The Washington State MONAHRQ provides cost savings information associated with hypothetical reductions in potentially avoidable hospital stays by 10, 20, 30, 40, or 50 percentage points. Alternatively, the user can choose a custom percentage reduction (e.g., 25 percent).