

**Hospital Readmissions**

**Washington**

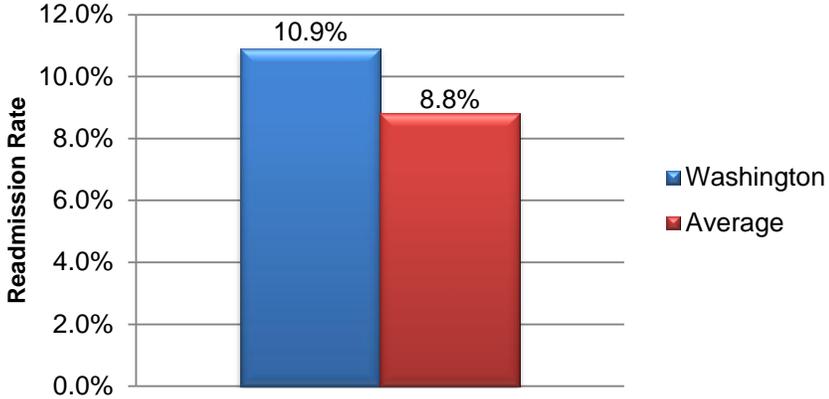
**Background**

Supported by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) since 2005, the MMDLN, as an integrated national resource, seeks to advance the health of Medicaid patients in over 45 member States and across the Nation while best stewarding available resources. The network is focused on the development and use of evidence-based medicine, measurement and improvement of health care quality, and the redesign of health care delivery systems.

This brief highlights 30-day readmission rates of acute hospitalizations in Washington and compares the State to the average of the 18 participating States.

In 2010, 7,023 acute hospitalizations out of a total of 64,719 were within 30 days of a previous admission, for an overall **readmission rate of 10.9%**. This compares to the 18-State average of 8.8%.

**30-day readmission rate: Comparison of Washington to the average of 18 States (physical health only)**



In Washington in 2010, payments for 30-day readmissions amounted to **\$86,269,191**, or **15.7%**, of total payment for acute hospital care. This compared to the 18-State average of 12.5%.

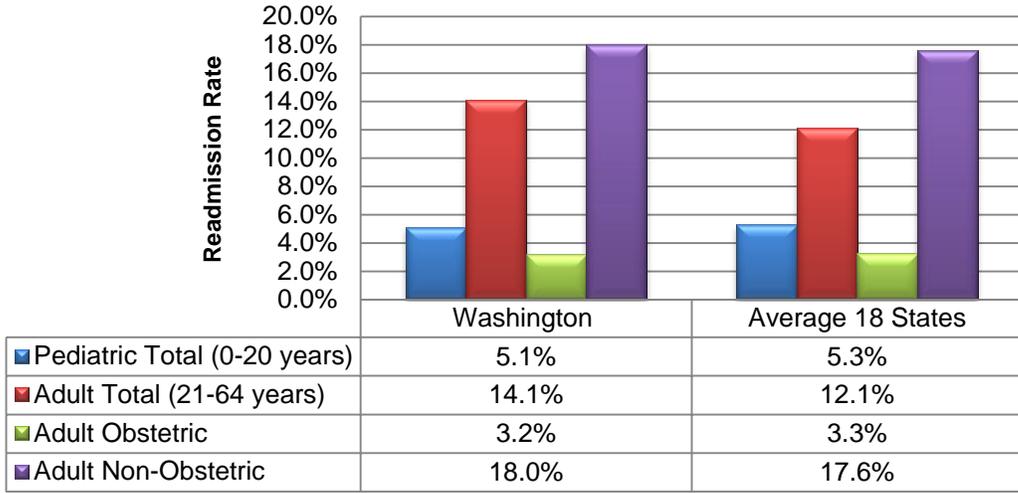
**Methods**

Readmission rates were:

- Calculated by dividing the number of 30-day readmission events by the total hospital admissions.
- Based on the 2009 and 2010 calendar year and incorporated a 30-day window preceding and following the study.
- Excluded for those who were dual eligible, ≥ age 65, or died. Transfers were not counted as a separate admission.

Data were submitted voluntarily at the State aggregate level. Four States submitted 2009 data and 14 States submitted 2010 data—both sets of data were used in the analysis to calculate the 18-State average. These data represent initial findings. As dually eligible data becomes available it will also be included in future analysis.

**30-day readmission rates by population: Comparison of Washington to average of 18 States (physical health only)**



Washington's readmission rates for **pediatric** (0-20 years), **adult obstetrical care** (21-64 years), and **adult non-obstetrical care** were **5.1%**, **3.2%**, and **18.0%** compared to respective State benchmarks of 5.3%, 3.3%, and 17.6%.

*The MMDLN is funded by an AHRQ contract to AcademyHealth. The funding supports in person meetings, Web conferences, and other activities that help the members use evidence-based research findings to make policy decisions. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does the fact that AHRQ is funding this group imply endorsement of any publications or policy statements that come out from the MMDLN.*

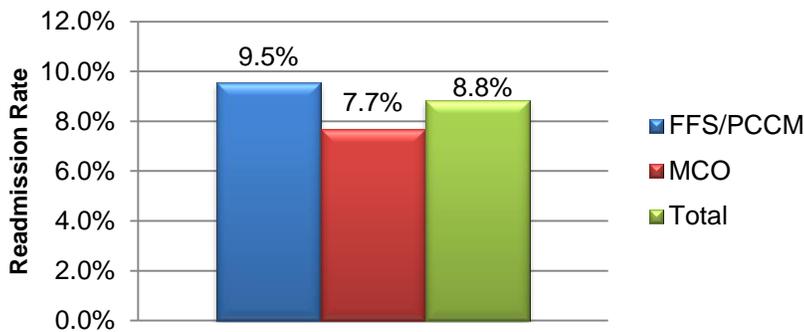
**Top Five Major Diagnostic Categories By Share of All Readmissions in Washington**

Category	Share of all readmissions		Share of payment for readmissions		Readmission Rate		% Total hospital payment for readmissions	
	WA	17-State Average*	WA	17-State Average*	WA	17-State Average*	WA	17-State Average*
Diseases of the Digestive System	13%	4%	12%	4%	19%	15%	21%	17%
Diseases of the Respiratory System	11%	4%	11%	4%	16%	12%	19%	15%
Injury & Poisoning	11%	1%	12%	2%	17%	17%	17%	14%
Disease of the Circulatory System	10%	6%	11%	5%	17%	17%	14%	15%
Endocrine, Nutritional & Metabolic, and Immunity	7%	10%	5%	10%	25%	17%	25%	19%

\*Alabama was not included in the major diagnostic categories analysis.

- The major diagnostic categories in Georgia that contribute to the highest share of readmissions are listed in the table above. They accounted for **52% of 30-day readmissions** and **51% of readmission payments**.
- The major diagnostic categories in the participating 17 States that accounted for the highest share of readmissions were: mental disorders; complications of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium; respiratory diseases; digestive diseases; circulatory diseases. These accounted for **58% of 30-day readmissions** and **53% of readmission payments**.

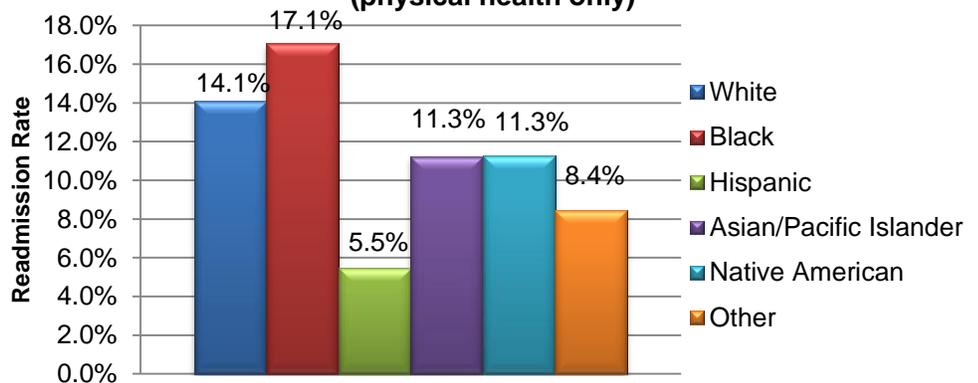
**Average 30-day readmission rates for 18 States by health plan (physical health only)**



Of the 18 States, 17 submitted FFS/PCCM health plan data and 6 of those States also submitted MCO health plan data. One State submitted only MCO health plan data.

Washington did not submit managed care organization (MCO) data.

**30-day readmission rates by race/ethnicity in Washington (physical health only)**



Within Washington, the 30-day readmission rate was highest among the **Black race/ethnicity category (17.1%)**, followed by **White (14.1%)**, **Asian/Pacific Islander** and **Native American (11.3%)**.

**18 States:** Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut\*, Georgia\*, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota\*, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania\*, South Carolina\*, Tennessee (only MCO), Texas\*, Washington, Wyoming

\*States who submitted both FFS/PCCM & MCO health plans. All other States have only FFS/PCCM except Tennessee.