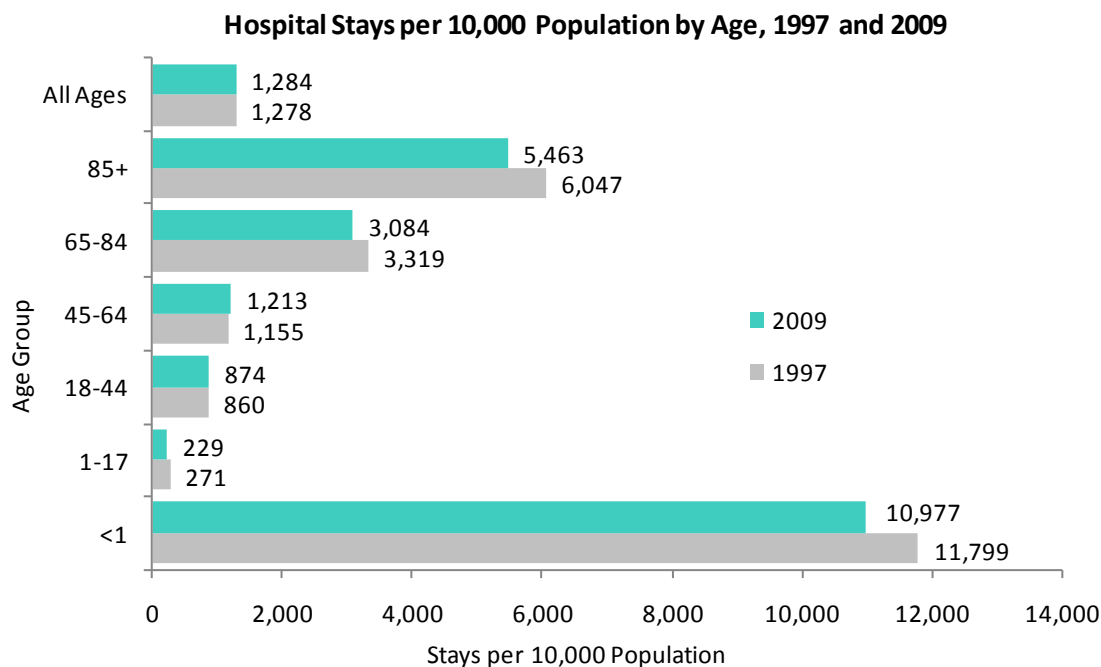


EXHIBIT 1.5 Patient Age

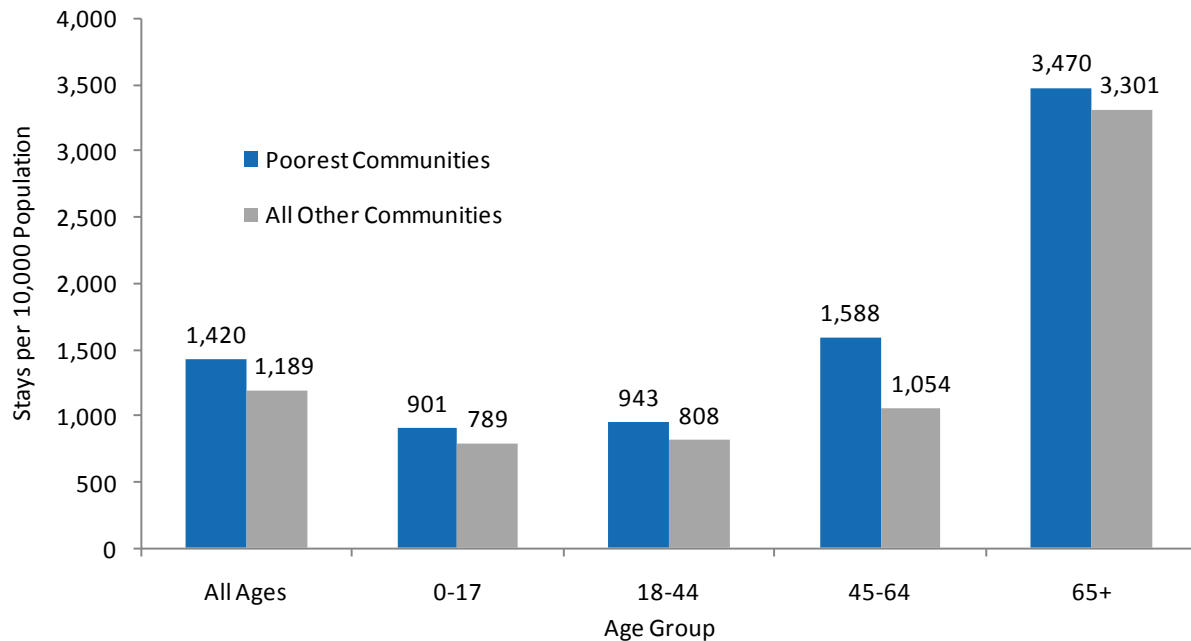


Note: Excludes a small number of stays (10,000 or 0.3 percent in 1997, 52,000 or 0.1 percent in 2009) with missing age.
 Source: AHRQ, Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets, Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 1997 and 2009.

Across all age groups, there were 1,284 hospital stays for every 10,000 persons in the United States in 2009, essentially the same as the rate of 1,278 stays in 1997.

- Older people had a greater chance of hospitalization in both 1997 and 2009.
 - For adults 85 and older, there were 6,047 stays per 10,000 persons in 1997 and 5,463 in 2009.
 - Adults 65-84 years old were hospitalized at a rate of 3,084 stays per 10,000 population, down from 3,319 stays per 10,000 population in 1997.
- There were fewer than 300 hospital stays for every 10,000 children 1-17 years old in 1997 and 2009.
- While older age was generally associated with higher hospitalization rates, infants younger than 1 year of age experienced the highest rates of hospitalization: 11,799 hospitalizations per 10,000 infants in 1997 and 10,977 hospitalizations per 10,000 infants in 2009. These high rates of hospital stays occur because nearly all births happen in the hospital and some infants require additional hospitalization in the first year of life.
- The rate of hospitalization per 10,000 population for 65-84 year olds and those 85 and older fell by 7 percent and 10 percent, respectively, between 1997 and 2009, while the rates for the younger age groups remained stable.

Hospital Stays per 10,000 Population by Age in the Poorest* and All Other Communities, 2009



* The poorest communities are defined by ZIP Code and have median household income of less than \$40,000, the lowest income quartile.

Note: Excludes a small number of stays (1,274,100 or 3 percent) with missing age or income.

Source: AHRQ, Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets, Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project, Nationwide Inpatient Sample, 2009.

- Persons residing in the poorest communities had a 19-percent higher rate of hospitalization in 2009 (1,420 stays per 10,000 population) than those residing in all other communities (1,189 stays per 10,000 population). This was especially pronounced for adults 18-44 and 45-64 where hospitalization rates were significantly higher in the poorest communities than in all other communities.
- Community income level had the least impact on the hospitalization rates of the youngest and oldest patients, since hospitalization rates in the poorest communities were not significantly different from rates in all other communities.
 - The rate of hospitalization for children 0-17 in the lowest income communities was 901 stays per 10,000 population, and 789 stays per 10,000 population in all other communities.
 - Among adults 65 and older, there were 3,470 stays per 10,000 population in the poorest communities and 3,301 stays per 10,000 population in wealthier communities.