

Definition of Reported Measures

- **Hospitalizations due to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)** represents the number of hospitalizations due to COPD among California residents 25 years and over; expressed as a rate per 10,000 California residents.
- **Emergency department (ED) visits due to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)** represents the number of ED visits due to COPD among California residents 25 years and over; expressed as a rate per 10,000 California residents.

How to Read Tables, Charts, and Maps

- The **95% confidence interval (CI)** is the range of values that likely contains the true rate in the population.
- **Crude rates** express the number of outcomes relative to the size of the population. N/A indicates that the data are not available due to the number of events being less than 12.
- **Total** counts are listed next to rates unless the total number of events is less than 12.
- The **map legend** displays the data with four class breaks, where the data is divided into four equal bins known as quartiles.
- Some counties have a greater proportion of people who are old or young than other counties, which makes it difficult to compare across counties or over time. Scientists often fix this problem through a technique called age adjustment so comparisons can be made. In addition to crude rates, we also present **age-adjusted rates**.
- Effective October 1, 2015, hospital record (HCAI) data transitioned from ICD-9 to ICD-10-CM. Differences between counts and rates in years prior to 2015 compared with 2015 and subsequent years could be a result of this coding change and not an actual difference in the number of events.
- Prior to 2019, data for Asians and Pacific Islanders were combined into a single group (Asian/PI). Beginning in 2019, data were reported separately for Asians and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islanders (NHPI). Data were also reported for Multi-race individuals starting in 2019.

Data Sources

- Emergency Department and Patient Discharge Datasets are from the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), formerly known as the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD).
- Denominators for rates are based on estimates from the California Department of Finance.

Methods

Cases of COPD hospitalizations and emergency department visits are identified by using the following ICD-9-CM codes or ICD-10-CM codes as the primary diagnosis.

ICD-9 Code	Code Description
490	Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic
491	Chronic bronchitis
492	Emphysema
496	Chronic airway obstruction, not elsewhere classified
493.2 (primary) + other diagnoses = 490, 491, 492, 496	Chronic obstructive asthma

ICD-10 Code	Code Description
J40	Bronchitis, not specified as acute or chronic
J41	Simple and mucopurulent chronic bronchitis
J42	Unspecified chronic bronchitis
J43	Emphysema
J44	Other chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

Limitations of the data

- Data Collection Purpose- Diagnosis codes are recorded by hospitals for reimbursement purposes and not for public health surveillance.
- The rates provided include ED visits and hospitalizations for California residents. Out-of-state residents and unhoused patients with no recorded address are excluded from the rates.
- Low-level of resolution- Hospitals are not mandated to report patient addresses. The level of geographic resolution of the data is limited to state, county, and zip code.
- Zip code level data- Zip codes are not geographic areas; Zip codes may change from year to year and even within a year; Zip codes can cross city or county boundaries; and Zip code populations are estimates. Only Zip codes with data are displayed.

Suggested Citation

Tracking California, Public Health Institute. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Related Emergency Department & Hospitalization data. Accessed [Month/Day/Year] from <https://data.trackingcalifornia.org>