

but when taken by age group, 57 percent of adults age 65-75 were married and 14 percent widowed, but only 33 percent of adults age 85 and older were married while 56 percent were widowed. The majority (67 percent) of ER discharges were paid for by Medicare, with this percentage increasing by age group. In 2012, there were 239,851 total inpatient discharges of Arizonans age 65 and older. Arizonans age 65 – 74 accounted for 44 percent, those age 75 -84 accounted for 37 percent, and those age 85 and older accounted for 20 percent of inpatient discharges, respectively. Females accounted for 128,513, or roughly 54 percent, of all inpatient discharges. This percentage of female inpatient discharges increased with each age group. White non-Hispanics accounted for 84 percent (200,931) of all inpatient discharges, which again increased with age group.

Among all Arizonans age 65 and older, the majority of inpatient discharges were to those who were married (51 percent), but when taken by age group, adults age 65-75 were about 59 percent married and about 13 percent widowed, but only 33 percent of adults age 85 and over were married while 55 percent were widowed. The majority (70 percent) of inpatient discharges were paid for by Medicare, with this percentage increasing slightly with increasing age group.

First-listed Diagnosis for Emergency Room Discharges

Table 6 contains counts and rates of ER discharges of Arizona residents age 65 and older by age-group in 2012. There was a total of 286,938 ER discharges among Arizona residents age 65 and older, meaning there were approximately 3,051 ER discharges for every 10,000 elderly residents in Arizona. For ER discharges, the two largest groups of conditions identified as the first-listed diagnosis were symptoms, signs, and ill-defined conditions (n = 88,513), followed by injury and poisoning (n = 59,288). These two categories of conditions accounted for 51.5 percent of the 286,398 total ER discharges for Arizonans age 65 and older.

Examining the difference in ER discharge rates among Arizona's youngest and oldest old reveals the health burdens endured by those in the latest years of life. The overall rate of ER discharges among Arizonans age 85 and older (4,949.1/10,000) was 102 percent greater than the rate of ER discharges for all causes among residents age 65-74 (2,447.0/10,000). Specific causes that had especially high discharge rates when comparing the oldest to the youngest old were fractures, which were 206 percent greater for adults age 85 and older (253.4/10,000) than for adults age 65-74 (82.8/10,000), discharges related to the circulatory system (including heart disease), which were 137 percent greater for the oldest Arizonans (467.3/10,000) than for those age 65-74 (197.3/10,000), and endocrine nutritional metabolic and immunity diseases, which were 108 percent greater for Arizona's oldest old (135.4/10,000) than for Arizona's youngest old (65.0/10,000).

First-listed Diagnosis for Inpatient Discharges

Table 7 contains counts and rates of inpatient discharges of Arizona residents age 65 and older by age group in 2012. In 2012, 239,851 Arizona residents age 65 and older were discharged from Arizona hospitals as inpatients. Arizonan adults age 65-74 accounted for the largest proportion of inpatient discharges (43.6 percent), followed by adults age 75-84 (36.7 percent), and those age