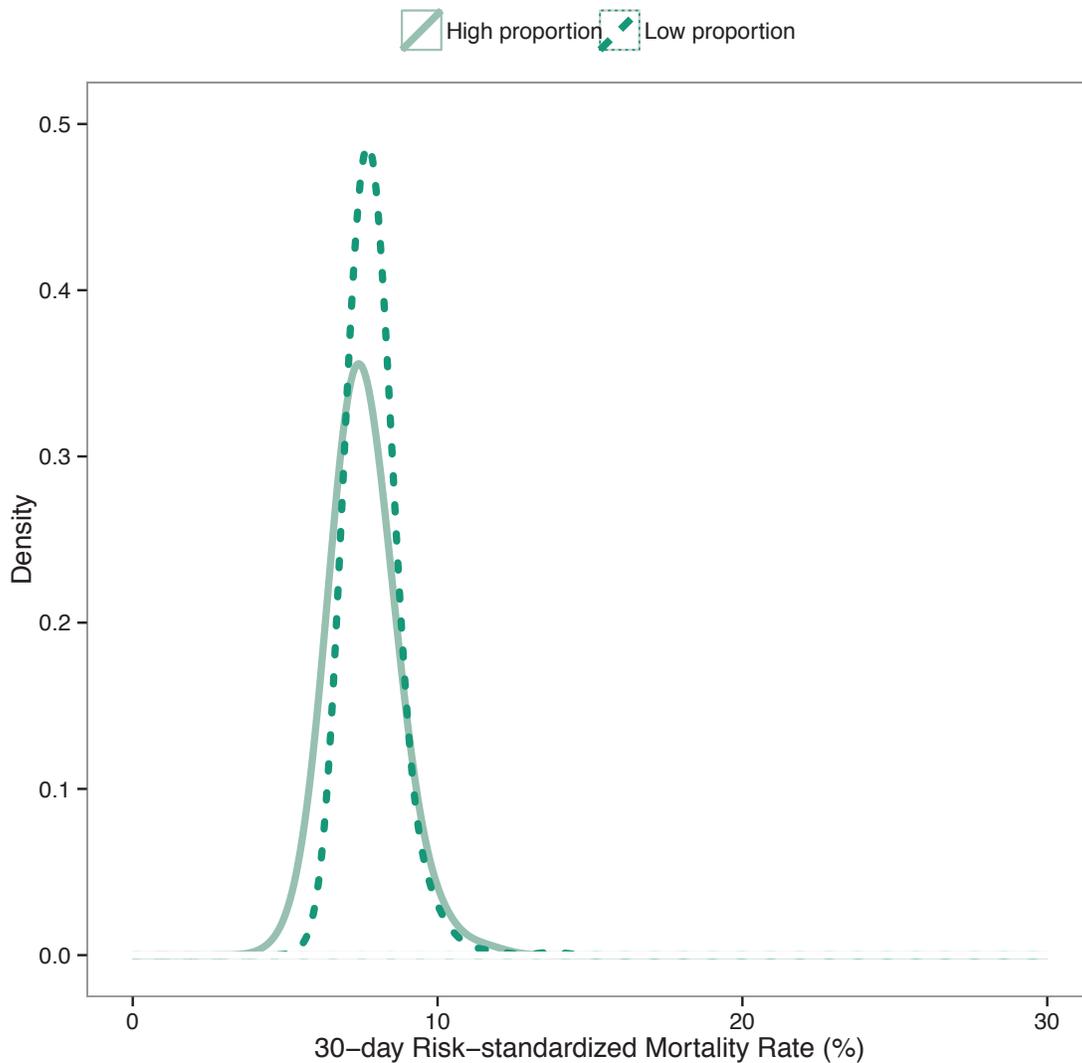


SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC STATUS

► Performance on the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease mortality measure: **Hospitals that serve high and low proportions of African-American patients.**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically investigates select hospital practices that may impact a hospital's performance on the following mortality measure: hospital-level 30-day risk-standardized mortality rate (RSMR) following chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) [1]. The COPD mortality measure includes Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older [2]. The COPD mortality measure assesses the occurrence of death for any cause within 30 days after hospital admission for COPD [2]. The COPD mortality measure has been publicly reported on [Hospital Compare](#) since 2014 [3].

FIGURE I Distributions of COPD RSMRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of African-American patients, July 2011-June 2014.



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Variation in RSMRs reflects differences in performance among hospitals; lower RSMRs suggest better quality, and higher RSMRs suggest worse quality. To understand the impact of caring for African-American patients, we examined RSMRs among hospitals with high and low proportions of African-American patients. Therefore, we compared the COPD RSMRs for the 501 hospitals with the lowest overall proportion of African-American Medicare FFS patients (0% of a hospital's Medicare FFS patients) to the 371 hospitals with the highest overall proportion of African-American Medicare FFS patients ($\geq 22.8\%$ of a hospital's Medicare FFS patients) for the July 2011 – June 2014 reporting period. Hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of African-American patients are designated as those that fall within the lowest and highest deciles of all hospitals with 25 or more qualifying admissions, respectively. The proportion of African-American Medicare FFS patients for each hospital was determined using the Medicare Part A Inpatient Claims from 2013. All hospitals with 0% African-American patients were included in the lowest decile. To ensure accurate assessment of each hospital, the COPD mortality measure uses a statistical model to adjust for key differences in patient risk factors that are clinically relevant and that have a strong relationship with the mortality outcome [2].

TABLE 1 Distribution of COPD RSMRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of African-American patients, July 2011-June 2014.

	COPD RSMR (%)	
	Lowest proportion (0%) African-American patients; n=501	Highest proportion ($\geq 22.8\%$) African-American patients; n=371
Maximum	13.8	11.9
90%	8.7	8.8
75%	8.2	8.2
Median (50%)	7.8	7.5
25%	7.3	7.0
10%	7.0	6.5
Minimum	5.8	4.8

The median COPD RSMR for hospitals with the highest proportion of African-American patients was 7.5% (interquartile range [IQR]: 7.0%-8.2%). The median COPD RSMR for hospitals with the lowest proportion of African-American patients was 7.8% (IQR: 7.3%-8.2%; Figure 1 and Table 1).

Hospitals with the lowest proportion of African-American patients had a median COPD RSMR that was 0.3 percentage points higher than that of hospitals with the highest proportion.

1. Medicare Hospital Quality Chartbook 2014: Performance Report on Outcome Measures. Prepared by Yale New Haven Health Services Corporation Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 2014; <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/HospitalQualityInits/Downloads/Medicare-Hospital-Quality-Chartbook-2014.pdf>. Accessed 16 June 2015.

2. Dorsey K, Grady J, Desai N, et al. 2015 Condition-Specific Measures Updates and Specifications Report Hospital-Level 30-Day Risk-Standardized Mortality Measures: Acute Myocardial Infarction – Version 9.0, Heart Failure – Version 9.0, Pneumonia – Version 9.0, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease – Version 4.0, Stroke – Version 4.0; <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1163010421830>. Accessed 26 June 2015.

3. “Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment Systems for Acute Care Hospitals, Final Rule.” Federal Register / 22 August 2014; <http://federalregister.gov/a/2014-18545>. Accessed 16 June 2015.

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