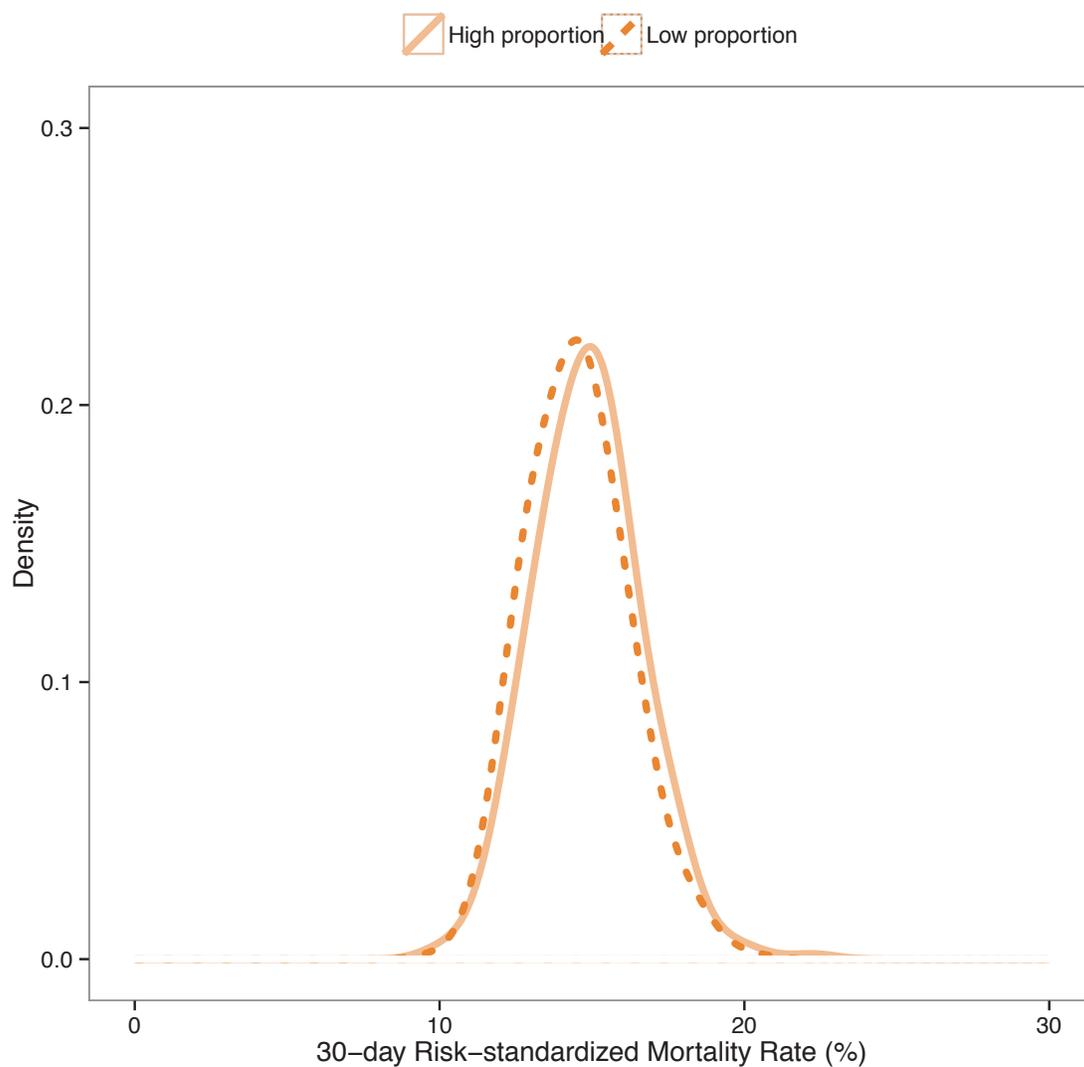


► Performance on the stroke mortality measure: **Hospitals that serve high and low proportions of Medicaid patients.**

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 acute ischemic stroke [1]. The stroke mortality measure includes Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older [2]. The stroke mortality measure assesses the occurrence of death for any cause within 30 days after hospital admission for acute ischemic stroke [2]. The stroke mortality measure has been publicly reported on [Hospital Compare](#) since 2014 [3].

FIGURE I Distributions of stroke RSMRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid 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 Medicaid patients, we examined RSMRs among hospitals with high and low proportions of Medicaid patients. Therefore, we compared the stroke RSMRs for the 278 hospitals with the lowest overall proportion of Medicaid patients ($\leq 8.4\%$ of a hospital's patients) to the 277 hospitals with the highest overall proportion of Medicaid patients ($\geq 30.5\%$ of a hospital's patients) for the July 2011 – June 2014 reporting period. Hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid 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 Medicaid patients for each hospital was determined using the American Hospital Association (AHA) Annual Survey Database Fiscal Year 2013 [4]. To ensure accurate assessment of each hospital, the stroke 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 stroke RSMRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid patients, July 2011-June 2014.

	Stroke RSMR (%)	
	Lowest proportion ($\leq 8.4\%$) Medicaid patients; n=278	Highest proportion ($\geq 30.5\%$) Medicaid patients; n=277
Maximum	20.1	22.3
90%	16.5	17.1
75%	15.5	15.9
Median (50%)	14.5	14.9
25%	13.3	13.7
10%	12.5	12.6
Minimum	10.1	10.1

The median stroke RSMR for hospitals with the highest proportion of Medicaid patients was 14.9% (interquartile range [IQR]: 13.7%-15.9%). The median stroke RSMR for hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid patients was 14.5% (IQR: 13.3%-15.5%; Figure 1 and Table 1).

Hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid patients had a median stroke RSMR that was 0.4 percentage points lower 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%2FPage%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.

4. AHA Annual Survey Database Fiscal Year 2013; <http://www.ahadataviewer.com/book-cd-products/aha-survey/>. Accessed 26 June 2015.

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