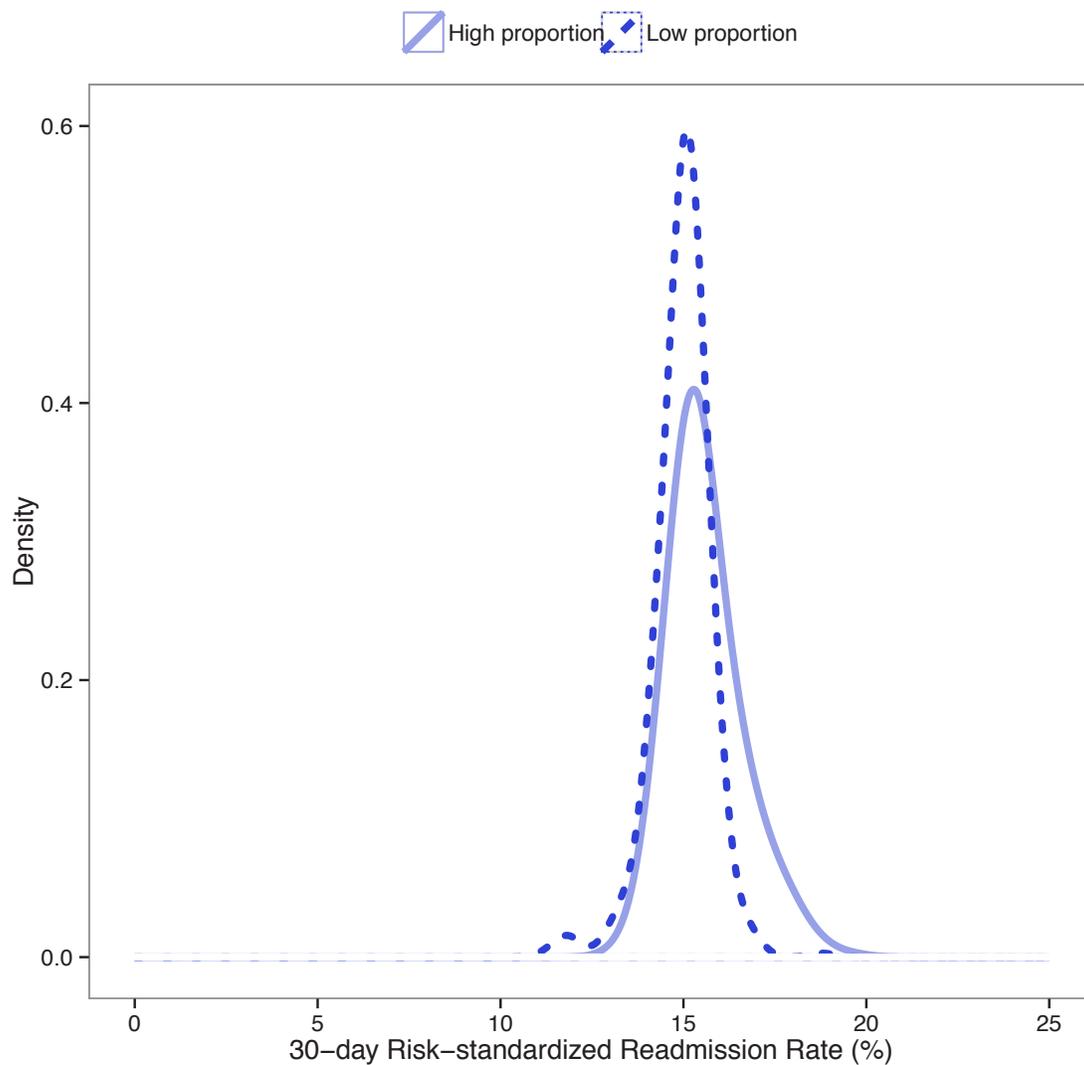


## SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC STATUS

► Performance on the hospital-wide readmission 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 hospital-wide all-cause unplanned readmission measure for Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries aged 65 or older [1, 2]. The hospital-wide readmission measure assesses the occurrence of unplanned readmission for any cause within 30 days after discharge from hospitalization for patients admitted for any condition or procedure [2]. The hospital-wide readmission measure has been publicly reported on [Hospital Compare](#) since 2013 [3].

**FIGURE I** Distributions of hospital-wide RSRRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid patients, July 2013-June 2014.



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Variation in risk-standardized readmission rates (RSRRs) reflects differences in performance among hospitals; lower RSRRs suggest better quality, and higher RSRRs suggest worse quality. To understand the impact of caring for Medicaid patients, we examined RSRRs among hospitals with high and low proportions of Medicaid patients. Therefore, we compared the hospital-wide RSRRs for the 449 hospitals with the lowest overall proportion of Medicaid patients ( $\leq 5.1\%$  of a hospital's patients) to the 449 hospitals with the highest overall proportion of Medicaid patients ( $\geq 28.6\%$  of a hospital's patients) for the July 2013 – 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 discharges, 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 hospital-wide readmission 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 readmission outcome [2].

**TABLE 1** Distribution of hospital-wide RSRRs (%) for hospitals with the lowest and highest proportions of Medicaid patients, July 2013-June 2014.

	Hospital-wide RSRR (%)	
	Lowest proportion ( $\leq 5.1\%$ ) Medicaid patients; n=449	Highest proportion ( $\geq 28.6\%$ ) Medicaid patients; n=449
Maximum	18.8	19.7
90%	15.8	17.0
75%	15.4	16.1
Median (50%)	15.0	15.4
25%	14.6	14.9
10%	14.1	14.5
Minimum	11.3	13.2

The median hospital-wide RSRR for hospitals with the highest proportion of Medicaid patients was 15.4% (interquartile range [IQR]: 14.9%-16.1%). The median hospital-wide RSRR for hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid patients was 15.0% (IQR: 14.6%-15.4%; Figure 1 and Table 1).

Hospitals with the lowest proportion of Medicaid patients had a median hospital-wide RSRR that was 0.4 percentage points lower than 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. Horwitz L, Grady J, Zhang W, et al. 2015 Measure Updates and Specifications Report: Hospital-Wide All-Cause Unplanned Readmission Measure – Version 4.0; <https://www.qualitynet.org/dcs/ContentServer?c=Page&pagename=QnetPublic%2FPage%2FQnetTier4&cid=1219069855841>. 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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