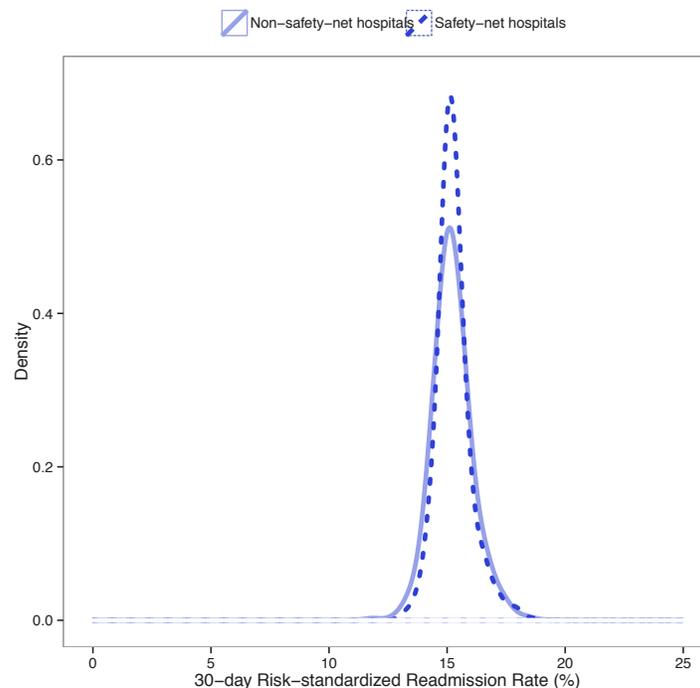


► Performance on the hospital-wide readmission measure by hospital characteristics: **safety-net status, teaching status, and urban or rural location.**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) periodically investigates select hospital characteristics 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 RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission measure by safety-net status, July 2013–June 2014.



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 hospital safety-net status, teaching status, and urban or rural location, we examined RSRRs among hospitals with these characteristics with 25 or more qualifying discharges. Therefore, we evaluated the hospital-wide RSRRs for a total of 4,527 hospitals by comparing 1,312 safety-net hospitals against 3,215 non-safety-net hospitals, 1,186 teaching hospitals against 3,341 non-teaching hospitals, and 3,413 urban hospitals against 1,114 rural hospitals for the July 2013 – June 2014 reporting period.

Safety-net hospitals are defined as those committed to caring for populations without stable access to care, specifically public hospitals or private hospitals with a Medicaid caseload greater than one standard deviation above their respective state's mean private hospital Medicaid caseload [4]. Teaching Hospitals provide post-graduate education for physicians completing residency and fellowship [4].

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HOSPITAL CHARACTERISTICS

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].

FIGURE 2 Distributions of hospital RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission measure by teaching status, July 2013-June 2014.

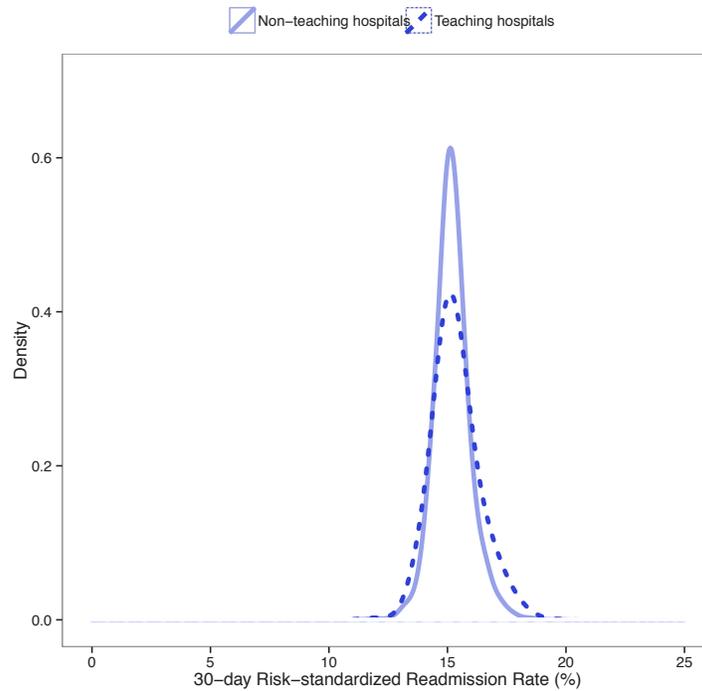


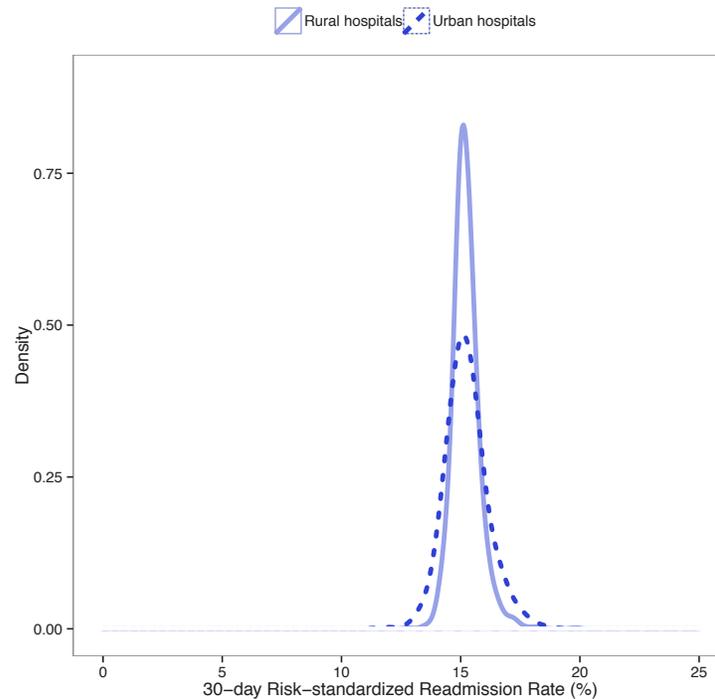
TABLE I Distributions of hospital RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission measure overall, by safety-net status, teaching status, and urban or rural location, July 2013-June 2014.

	Hospital-wide RSRR (%)						
	Overall; n=4527	Safety-net hospitals; n=1312	Non-safety-net hospitals; n=3215	Teaching hospitals; n=1186	Non-teaching hospitals; n=3341	Urban hospitals; n=3413	Rural hospitals; n=1114
Maximum	19.8	18.8	19.8	19.7	19.8	19.7	19.8
90%	16.3	16.2	16.3	16.7	16.1	16.4	15.9
75%	15.7	15.6	15.7	15.9	15.6	15.7	15.5
Median (50%)	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.2
25%	14.7	14.9	14.7	14.7	14.8	14.7	14.9
10%	14.3	14.5	14.2	14.2	14.3	14.2	14.6
Minimum	11.3	13.1	11.3	11.6	11.3	11.3	12.8

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The median hospital-wide RSRR for all hospitals was 15.2% (interquartile range [IQR]: 14.7%-15.7%; Table 1). The median hospital-wide RSRR for safety-net hospitals was 15.2% (IQR: 14.9%-15.6%) and for non-safety-net hospitals was 15.2% (IQR: 14.7%-15.7%; Figure 1 and Table 1). The median hospital-wide RSRR for teaching hospitals was 15.2% (IQR: 14.7%-15.9%) and for non-teaching hospitals was 15.2% (IQR: 14.8%-15.6%; Figure 2 and Table 1). The median hospital-wide RSRR for urban hospitals was 15.2% (IQR: 14.7%-15.7%) and for rural hospitals was 15.2% (IQR: 14.9%-15.5%; Figure 3 and Table 1).

FIGURE 3 Distributions of hospital RSRRs (%) for hospital-wide readmission measure by urban or rural location, July 2013-June 2014.



Safety-net hospitals had a median hospital-wide RSRR that was equal to that of non-safety-net hospitals, teaching hospitals had a median hospital-wide RSRR that was equal to that of non-teaching hospitals, and urban hospitals had a median hospital-wide RSRR that was equal to that of rural hospitals.

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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.
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