

Hospital and Insurance Provider Data. Several other data sources were used to expand the picture of the health of Garfield County residents. Hospital discharge data and emergency room visit data provided comparative information on the more serious conditions for which Garfield County residents sought medical care. Health insurance claims data from a major health insurance provider operating on the Western Slope was another resource for information regarding health and healthcare usage among the comparison counties. Unfortunately, our attempts to obtain primary care provider information were not successful.

Hospital Discharge Data

Table 26 provides information on hospitalization rates and hospital choice for Garfield County residents during 2005 and 2006. Out of more than 4,000 hospitalizations of Garfield County residents during both 2005 and 2006, approximately 60% of those patients were hospitalized at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs. Approximately 16% and 12% of the patients were hospitalized in St. Mary's Hospital and Medical Center (Grand Junction) or Grand River Hospital District (Rifle), respectively. The rest were hospitalized in other area or regional hospitals.

Table 27 shows the top 10 DRG (Diagnosis-Related Group) categories for Garfield County residents hospitalized in 2000 through 2005. "Diagnosis-Related Group" is a system that was developed for the U.S. Health Care Finance Administration to classify hospital cases into one of approximately 500 groups (DRGs) expected to have similar hospital resource use. The system is used by Medicare and Medicaid as part of a prospective payment plan. It takes into account diagnoses, procedures, age, gender and the presence of complications or co-existing medical conditions.

For the purposes of this study, the approximately 500 DRG categories were collapsed into 130 consolidated categories for which data were obtained. These 130 categories were then further grouped into larger, relationship categories, the contents of which, are described below.

During this six-year period, with the exception of 2003, circulation disorders and bone and joint disorders were either the first or second most common reasons for hospitalization (in 2003, birthing and pregnancy disorders was number one, and circulation disorders was third). Because of the frequency with which respiratory and nervous system concerns were mentioned by Garfield County residents, and the potential for air quality issues to cause or exacerbate respiratory conditions, these two DRG categories are highlighted. Respiratory disorders were either the fourth or fifth most common reason for hospitalization in all years; nervous system disorders were ranked either seventh or eighth each year. Digestive disorders ranked third in four out of the six years. Neonatal disorders were sixth in frequency during the entire six-year period.

Table 26. Hospital Utilization, Garfield County Residents 2005-2006 (Colorado Hospital Association)

Patient Origin Garfield County	Valley View Hospital		Saint Marys Hospital and Medical Center		Grand River Hospital District		Aspen Valley Hospital		University Hospital		Presbyterian Saint Lukes Medical Center		Vail Valley Medical Center	
	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>
FY 2005	2,384	55.9%	668	15.7%	515	12.1%	277	6.5%	79	1.9%	69	1.6%	62	1.5%
TOTAL														
GLENWOOD SPRINGS	914	80.0%	65	5.7%	9	0.8%	28	2.5%	34	3.0%	19	1.7%	20	1.8%
RIFLE	415	42.9%	206	21.3%	261	27.0%	5	0.5%	11	1.1%	14	1.4%	9	0.9%
CARBONDALE	519	57.0%	65	7.1%	4	0.4%	224	24.6%	15	1.6%	18	2.0%	16	1.8%
PARACHUTE	95	17.9%	229	43.2%	172	32.5%	-	0.0%	1	0.2%	3	0.6%	4	0.8%
NEW CASTLE	294	68.4%	48	11.2%	22	5.1%	14	3.3%	7	1.6%	9	2.1%	9	2.1%
SILT	146	52.7%	49	17.7%	46	16.6%	5	1.8%	11	4.0%	6	2.2%	4	1.4%
BATTLEMENT MESA	1	10.0%	6	60.0%	1	10.0%	1	10.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	0	0.0%

FY 2006	Cnty Cases	Cnty Share										
COUNTY TOTAL	2,346	55.8%	674	16.0%	513	12.2%	272	6.5%	66	1.6%	76	1.8%
GLENWOOD SPRINGS	863	78.8%	84	7.7%	4	0.4%	26	2.4%	21	1.9%	25	2.3%
RIFLE	371	38.7%	237	24.7%	280	29.2%	6	0.6%	6	0.6%	11	1.1%
CARBONDALE	543	58.7%	40	4.3%	2	0.2%	229	24.8%	23	2.5%	17	1.8%
PARACHUTE	103	19.6%	217	41.3%	157	29.8%	-	0.0%	6	1.1%	4	0.8%
NEW CASTLE	292	74.9%	42	10.8%	25	6.4%	5	1.3%	6	1.5%	4	1.0%
SILT	171	57.2%	49	16.4%	43	14.4%	6	2.0%	4	1.3%	15	5.0%
BATTLEMENT MESA	3	27.3%	5	45.5%	2	18.2%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%

Table 26. Hospital Utilization, Garfield County Residents 2005-2006 (continued)

Patient Origin Garfield County	The Childrens Hospital		Other Hospitals		Total
	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	<u>Cnty Cases</u>	<u>Cnty Share</u>	
FY 2005					
TOTAL	37	0.9%	176	4.1%	4,267
GLENWOOD SPRINGS	15	1.3%	38	3.3%	1,142
RIFLE	4	0.4%	43	4.4%	968
CARBONDALE	8	0.9%	41	4.5%	910
PARACHUTE	2	0.4%	24	4.5%	530
NEW CASTLE	7	1.6%	20	4.7%	430
SILT	1	0.4%	9	3.2%	277
BATTLEMENT MESA	0	0.0%	1	10.0%	10
FY 2006					
COUNTY TOTAL	35	0.8%	161	3.8%	4,205
GLENWOOD SPRINGS	14	1.3%	37	3.4%	1,095
RIFLE	9	0.9%	25	2.6%	959
CARBONDALE	3	0.3%	51	5.5%	925

