This study is part of the ongoing health care quality assessment activities that the New Jersey Department of Health performs to provide information related to Stroke patients in New Jersey.

The relative shares of patients by age appears to have changed in this presentation, showing trends in volume of acute stroke hospitalizations in New Jersey. The presentation also shows the importance of AHRQ's tools are used to help hospitals identify accurate discharge diagnosis codes to improving stroke care and access to care, as well as for assessing stroke-related healthcare planning.

The objective of the study is to examine trends in volume of acute stroke hospitalizations: the demographic characteristics of acute stroke patients and, patterns of hospitalizations by demographic characteristics of acute stroke patients to help assess implications for healthcare planning.

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The study presents data on stroke patients in New Jersey and needs further study. The study also shows that average length of hospital stay in days declined from 6 days in 2002 to 5.7 days in 2012. The continued decline in acute mortality is good news for New Jersey residents. However, stroke mortality has not fallen in the same proportion as the average length of stay, which suggests that other factors such as quality of care and discharge planning may have contributed to the observed decline.

The data also show that stroke affects all adults with the elderly (65+ years old) having the highest risk of stroke. This study supplements the New Jersey Acute Stroke Registry (NJASR) and provides further evidence of the importance of stroke care.

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