

6-26-2013

## Emergency Department Utilization Among South Philadelphia Residents and Frequent Users in the Jefferson Community Benefit Area

Melissa McCarey  
*Jefferson School of Population Health*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://jdc.jefferson.edu/mphcpstone\\_presentation](https://jdc.jefferson.edu/mphcpstone_presentation)



Part of the [Emergency Medicine Commons](#), and the [Public Health Commons](#)

**[Let us know how access to this document benefits you](#)**

---

### Recommended Citation

McCarey, Melissa, "Emergency Department Utilization Among South Philadelphia Residents and Frequent Users in the Jefferson Community Benefit Area" (2013). *Master of Public Health Thesis and Capstone Presentations*. Presentation 87.

[https://jdc.jefferson.edu/mphcpstone\\_presentation/87](https://jdc.jefferson.edu/mphcpstone_presentation/87)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Master of Public Health Thesis and Capstone Presentations by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: [JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu](mailto:JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu).

Over the past decade, the rate of emergency department (ED) visits increased at almost double the rate that would be expected due to normal population growth. The implications of this increase in ED usage include decreased quality of care, overcrowding, increased wait times, and increased healthcare costs. The purpose of this analysis is to examine health issues, concerns, and underlying social determinants of frequent ED users and South Philadelphia Residents who use the Thomas Jefferson University or Methodist Hospital emergency departments. This project is a retrospective data analysis using descriptive statistics, measures of central tendency, and cross-tabulation analysis to analyze emergency department data from July 2011 through June 2012. Frequent ED users (patients who visited the ED greater than 4 times in one year) were more likely to be Medicaid patients, who visited the ED for substance abuse problems, mental issues, sickle cell disease, and pain-related complaints. South Philadelphia residents also had a higher rate of Medicaid insurance than patients in the surrounding areas. They also had had higher rates of ED visits for asthma and other ambulatory care sensitive conditions. South Philadelphia patients also had a higher rate of non-emergent ED visits. Although many patients in the Thomas Jefferson University community benefit area report having a regular source of care, there were still a large number of ED visits for conditions that could be managed in an outpatient setting. Additional research is necessary to explore potential barriers to primary care that exist in this setting.