

Flu's Annual Impact

The influenza virus causes respiratory illness in both children and adults. Severe cases may result in hospitalizations and even death, but even mild cases often require treatment. Recent data from AHRQ illustrate some of flu's burdens.



Hospital Stays and Emergency Department Visits for Flu, 2015-16¹

Hospital Inpatient Stays

47

per 100,000 people

Emergency Department
Visits

176

per 100,000 people

In-Hospital Deaths

5,400

Average Annual Flu-Related Expenses, 2016-17²

\$840

for emergency
room visits

\$312

for ambulatory
visits*

\$119

for prescription
medicine

*Ambulatory visits are office or hospital outpatient visits

1. Inpatient Hospital Stays and Emergency Department Visits Involving Influenza, 2006-2016. Statistical Brief #253. Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project. October 2019. www.hcup-us.ahrq.gov/reports/statbriefs/sb253-Influenza-Hospitalizations-ED-Visits-2006-2016.jsp.

2. Health Care Use and Expenditures for Influenza, 2016-17. Statistical Brief #526. Medical Expenditure Panel Survey. October 2019. meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/data_files/publications/st526/stat526.pdf.