

# Hospital admissions not related to COVID-19 fell in early 2020

September 30 2020

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(HealthDay)—Non-COVID-19 hospital admissions decreased

considerably with the onset of COVID-19, with declines generally similar across patient demographic subgroups from February to April 2020, according to a report published online Sept. 24 in *Health Affairs*.

John D. Birkmeyer, M.D., from Sound Physicians in Tacoma, Washington, and colleagues conducted a study of approximately 1 million medical admissions from a large nationally representative hospitalist group to examine differences in admissions patterns with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic among [patient groups](#).

The researchers found that from February to April 2020, declines in non-COVID-19 admissions were generally similar across patient demographic subgroups and exceeded 20 percent for all primary admission diagnoses. Overall, non-COVID-19 admission had rebounded to 16 percent below prepandemic volume by late June/early July 2020 (8 percent including COVID-19 admissions). For patients residing in majority-Hispanic neighborhoods, non-COVID-19 admissions were substantially lower (32 percent below baseline); admissions remained below baseline for patients with pneumonia, [chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)/asthma, sepsis, [urinary tract infection](#), and acute ST-elevation myocardial infarction (-44, -40, -25, -24, -22 percent, respectively).

"Our results provide empirical support for concerns about the broad public health impact of the pandemic on non-COVID-19 populations," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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