CHP PCOR STANFORD
CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY/ CENTER FOR PRIMARY CARE AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH
Health Policy Facts

Regionalized Specialty Care for California's Children

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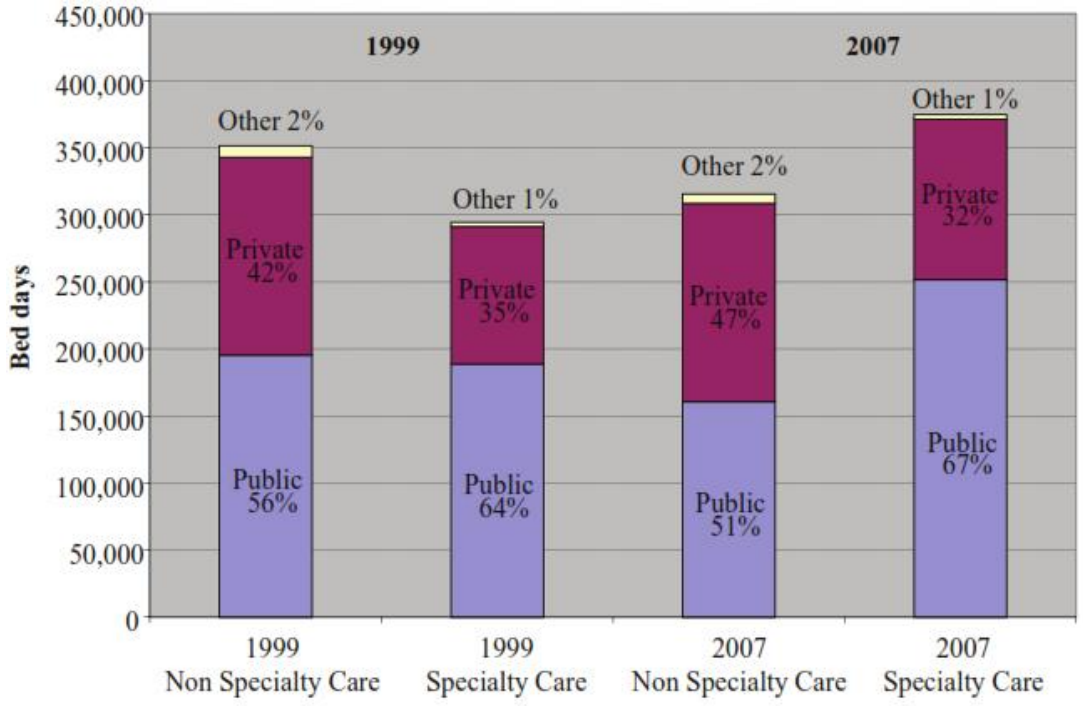
THE FINDINGS

- **In recent years, the number of hospitalizations at pediatric specialty care hospitals has increased.**
- The portion of all pediatric discharges and pediatric bed days from specialty care hospitals that are insured by public programs (e.g., California Children's Services, Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program) has increased.
    - **Publicly insured children** are now more likely to be hospitalized at specialty care centers than at non-specialty centers.
    - **Privately insured children** are less likely to receive care in a specialty care center than their publicly insured counterparts.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- **Regionalized specialty services are a central component of modern pediatric care for all children in California, regardless of insurance payer.**
- **Specialty care centers in California are increasingly dependent on public payers.**
- **Rapid changes to public reimbursement may destabilize pediatric specialty care centers.**

Number of bed days in specialty and non-specialty care hospitals by insurance status, California 1999 & 2007



Data analyzed were from California's Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development unmasked discharge data set from 1999-2007. This full version of this work is published as: Variation in Specialty Care Hospitalization for Children With Chronic Conditions in California. *PEDIATRICS* Chamberlain, L. J., Chan, J., Mahlow, P., Huffman, L. C., Chan, K., Wise, P. H. 2010; 125 (6): 1190-1199.
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