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# Cellulitis-Associated Hospitalizations in Baltimore City

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## Executive Summary

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This report describes hospitalizations associated with cellulitis, a skin infection frequently linked to methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus* (known as MRSA), in Baltimore City. From 2000 to 2006, the number of cellulitis-associated inpatient hospitalizations increased by 74 percent, from 1,456 to 2,539—an increase of over 1,000 hospitalizations. The corresponding increase in the rate of cellulitis-associated hospitalizations was from 2.2 to 4.0 per thousand population per year. Rates increased among all age groups and among the insured and uninsured. Rates of cellulitis hospitalizations fell from 2006 to 2007 among adults, but increased among children. Cellulitis-associated hospitalizations varied substantially across different locations within Baltimore City, with a three- to fourfold difference in the highest and lowest rates. Zip codes 21223 and 21225 had the largest number of cellulitis cases in 2007. Zip code 21225 had the greatest increase in number of cases between 2000 and 2007. Overall, rates of cellulitis-associated hospitalizations in 2007 were twice as high in Baltimore City as in the District of Columbia and Maryland as a whole.