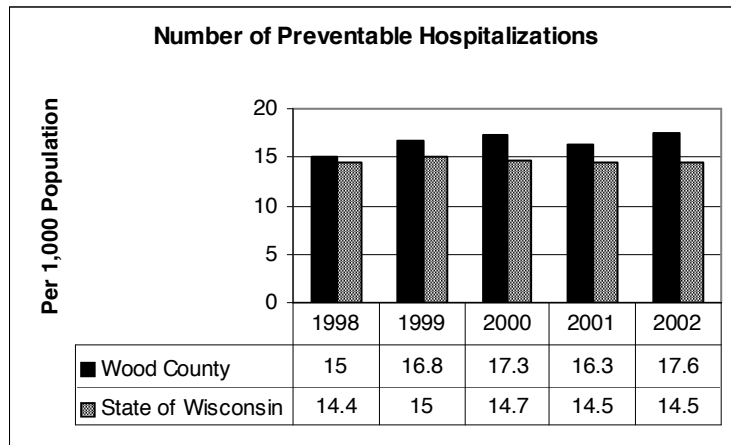


Wood County Health Department Recognized Need for Injury Prevention: New Programs Implemented in 2005



Key Facts

- In Wood County, the greatest percentage of preventable hospitalizations occurs with individuals 65 + years of age.
- In 2002, there were 811 preventable hospitalizations for people age 65+ years; the average stay was 4.4 days, with an average charge of \$ 8,215.
- In 2006, Wood County Health Department will kick off Wood County Safe Kids, an injury prevention chapter including agencies throughout the county.

Why is this Information Important?

Many medical conditions can be managed to help prevent the need for hospitalizations. Preventive care can reduce costly hospitalizations and increase quality of life.

Preventable Hospitalizations

A “preventable” hospitalization is one that could have been avoided if timely and appropriate care had been administered. Examples of diagnoses that are potentially avoidable with good out-of-hospital care include asthma, diabetes, pneumonia and dehydration.

Adequate primary and preventive health care with the focus on preventing, controlling and/or managing a chronic disease or condition can decrease hospitalizations. With Wood County consistently having higher rates of preventable hospitalizations than the state of Wisconsin, Wood County Health Department has recognized the need for injury prevention programs.

In 2005, the Health Department began making program changes to include more education and awareness of injury prevention.

Sources: Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services; Wood County Health Department