

Supplemental Online Content

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This supplemental material has been provided by the authors to give readers additional information about their work.

eMethods. Supplemental Methods

Health Related Social Needs (HRSN) Screening Instrument

Adapted from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Accountable Health Communities (AHC) HRSNs Screening Tool.^{6,7} Underlined answers indicate a positive response/need. For Poor Housing Quality, the selection “all of the above” was added to the digital response channels to increase ease of responding and is not part of the standard tool.

Domain/Question	Responses
Financial Strain	
How hard is it for you to pay for the very basics like food, housing, medical care, and heating? Would you say it is:	Not hard at all
	<u>Somewhat hard</u>
	<u>Very hard</u>
	No response
Food Insecurity	
Some people have made the following statements about their food situation. Please answer whether the statements were OFTEN, SOMETIMES, or NEVER true for you and your household in the last 12 months. Within the past 12 months, you worried that your food would run out before you got money to buy more. Within the past 12 months, the food you bought just didn't last and you didn't have money to get more.	Never true
	<u>Sometimes true (1 of 2 questions)</u>
	<u>Sometimes true (both questions)</u>
	<u>Sometimes or Often true (both questions)</u>
	<u>Often true (both questions)</u>
	No response
Loneliness or Social Isolation	
How often do you feel lonely or isolated from those around you?	Never
	Rarely
	Sometimes
	<u>Often</u>
	<u>Always</u>
	No response
Housing Insecurity	
What is your living situation today?	I have a steady place to live
	<u>I have a place to live but I am worried about losing it in the future</u>

	<u>I do not have a steady place to live</u>
	No response
Poor Housing Quality	
Think about the place you live. Do you have problems with any of the following? CHOOSE ALL THAT APPLY.	<u>Pests such as bugs, ants, or mice</u>
	<u>Mold</u>
	<u>Lead paint or pipes</u>
	<u>Lack of heat</u>
	<u>Oven or stove not working</u>
	<u>Smoke detectors missing or not working</u>
	<u>Water leaks</u>
	None of the above
	<u>All of the above</u>
	No response
	Utility Insecurity
In the past 12 months has the electric, gas, oil, or water company threatened to shut off services in your home?	No
	<u>Yes</u>
	<u>Already shut-off</u>
	No response
Unreliable Transportation	
In the past 12 months, has a lack of reliable transportation kept you from medical appointments, meetings, work or from getting things needed for daily living?	No
	<u>Yes</u>
	No response

Additional Information on Survey Administration

Adult, non-institutionalized, enrollees in an individual Medicare Advantage plan offered by Humana Inc. on October 1, 2019 were eligible for outreach. Eligible individuals were sampled at the household level. Among households with two or three eligible individuals, only one was randomly selected for participation. Outreach to eligible individuals occurred over a rolling period, with a maximum of eight contact attempts per individual, and was accomplished using interactive voice response (IVR) phone call, text messaging and email, based on the availability of valid contact information within each channel. Survey completion by channel was as follows: IVR (66%), Text (30%), and email (4%). The survey was administered in English and Spanish. Multi-answer questions were converted to distinct questions for better clarity over IVR.

Measures of Avoidable Utilization

Avoidable hospital stays were defined using the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Prevention Quality Indicators (PQI).¹⁹ A hospital stay is considered potentially avoidable based on presence of discharge ICD-10 diagnosis codes and meeting AHRQ criteria for each condition category. Our analysis includes the sum of PQI 90, the overall composite measure. PQI 90 includes chronic and acute causes of hospital stays related to diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or asthma, hypertension, congestive heart failure, community acquired pneumonia, and urinary tract infections.

Avoidable ED were defined using the New York University Emergency Department (ED) visit algorithm, and subsequent algorithm “patch,” which, using primary diagnosis ICD-10 codes, assigns ED visits a probability (0.0-1.0) of falling into each of the following four categories: 1) non-emergent; 2) emergent and primary care treatable (treatment required within 12 hours but could have been provided in primary care setting); 3) emergent, ED care needed, and avoidable (ED care required but emergent nature of the condition was preventable if timely ambulatory care had been received); and 4) emergent, ED care needed, and unavoidable.^{20,21} We considered an ED visit to be avoidable if they fell into categories 1, 2, or 3, and to improve the specificity of classification, required that the summed probabilities across those three categories be 0.75 or greater to be considered avoidable.^{22,34}

eTable 1. Comparison of Survey Respondents and Non-Respondents, and Survey Completers and Non-Completers

	Survey Responders	Survey Non-Responders	SMD	Survey Completers	Survey Non-Completers	SMD
N	105,901	325,575		79,848	26,053	
Age, mean (SD)^a	71.05 (9.31)	70.38 (10.54)	.07	70.83 (9.18)	71.74 (9.66)	.10
Female Sex, n (%)^b	61,011 (58.0%)	175,640 (55.1%)	.06	46,350 (58.4%)	14,661 (56.9%)	.06
Race, n (%)						
Black	18,690 (17.6%)	51,610 (15.9%)	.05	13,853 (17.3%)	4,837 (18.6%)	.03
White	76,164 (71.9%)	230,963 (70.9%)	.02	57,970 (72.6%)	18,194 (69.8%)	.06
Other	4,384 (4.1%)	20,581 (6.3%)	.10	3,017 (3.8%)	1,367 (5.2%)	.07
Unknown	6,663 (6.3%)	22,421 (6.9%)	.02	5,008 (6.3%)	1,655 (6.4%)	.00
Geographic region, n (%)						
Northeast	3,605 (3.4%)	11,754 (3.6%)	.01	2,675 (3.4%)	930 (3.6%)	.01
Midwest	23,064 (21.8%)	65,906 (20.2%)	.04	17,690 (22.2%)	5,374 (20.6%)	.04
South	64,786 (61.2%)	198,774 (61.1%)	.00	48,587 (60.8%)	16,199 (62.2%)	.03
West	13,355 (12.6%)	40,690 (12.5%)	.00	10,211 (12.8%)	3,144 (12.1%)	.02
Population Density, n (%)						
Urban	64,634 (61.0%)	199,597 (61.3%)	.01	48,760 (61.1%)	15,874 (60.9%)	.00
Suburban	26,237 (24.8%)	77,068 (23.7%)	.03	19,845 (24.9%)	6,392 (24.5%)	.01
Rural	11,752 (11.1%)	33,745 (10.4%)	.02	8,895 (11.1%)	2,857 (11.0%)	.01
Unknown	1,194 (1.1%)	4,633 (1.4%)	.03	852 (1.1%)	342 (1.3%)	.02
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible, n (%)	22,333 (21.1%)	71,356 (21.9%)	.02	16,425 (20.6%)	5,908 (22.7%)	.05
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index, mean (SD)	2.97 (2.69)	2.76 (2.78)	.08	2.93 (2.65)	3.09 (2.79)	.06

^aAmong the (non)responder groups age was missing for 7,413 individuals, and among the (non)completer groups age was missing for 783 individuals; thus excluded from the mean.

^bAmong the (non)responder groups gender was missing for 7,403 individuals, and among the (non)completer groups age was missing for 782 individuals; thus the percent calculation did not use the total N.

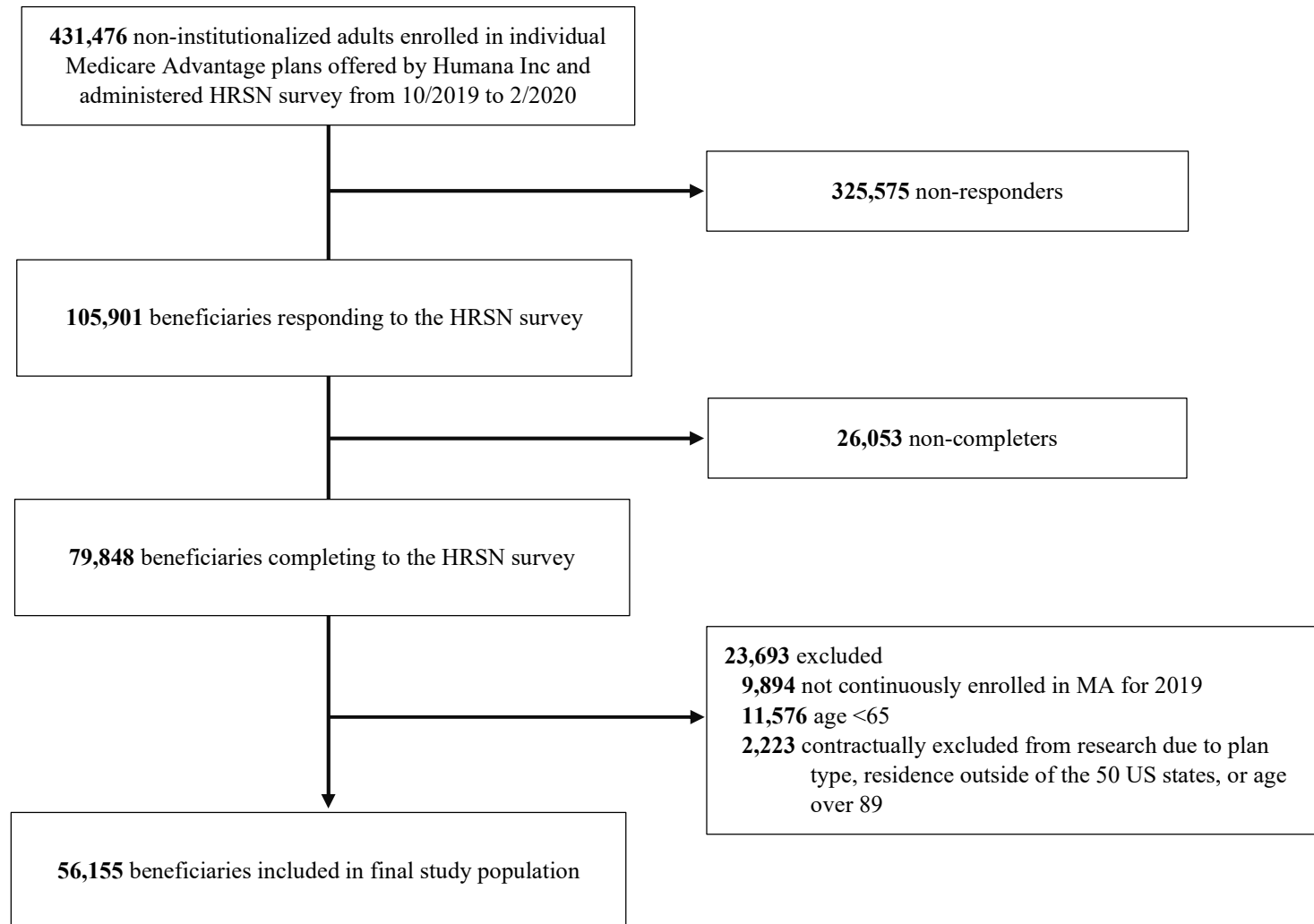
NOTE: Since the intent of these comparisons is to make inferences on the validity, reliability, and generalizability of responses to the survey itself, these data are reflective of the total population surveyed (n=431,476) before the application of research exclusions. As a result, the population of survey completers (n=79,848) is larger than the study population. When research exclusions are applied, the results are similar (SMDs all less than .12).

eTable 2. Correlation between Individual Health-Related Social Needs

The table below presents Phi coefficients among individual HRSNs, and for individual HRSNs and dual eligibility, for participants included in the final study population. Correlation coefficients greater than 0.7 were considered to represent strong correlations.

	Dual Eligibility	Food Insecurity	Financial Strain	Loneliness	Unreliable Transportation	Utility Insecurity	Housing Insecurity	Poor Housing Quality
Dual Eligibility	--							
Food Insecurity	.26	--						
Financial Strain	.22	.50	--					
Loneliness	.08	.19	.17	--				
Unreliable Transportation	.16	.27	.23	.18	--			
Utility Insecurity	.06	.14	.12	.07	.11	--		
Housing Insecurity	.10	.20	.17	.14	.15	.09	--	
Poor Housing Quality	.14	.24	.23	.14	.18	.12	.13	--

eFigure. Participant Flow Through the Study



eTable 3. Complete Regression Results*Any HRSNs and All-Cause Hospital Stays

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.003	.08
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.046	.03
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.196	<.001
Other	-.128	.04
Unknown	-.008	.94
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.054	.05
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.065	.01
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.344	<.001
Any HRSN		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.102	<.001

Any HRSNs and Avoidable Hospital Stays

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.016	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.102	.08
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.022	.78
Other	-.183	.32
Unknown	-.585	.15
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.394	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.226	.001
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.441	<.001
Any HRSN		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.427	<.001

Any HRSNs and All-Cause ED Visits

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.015	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	.086	<.001
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	.081	.002
Other	-.054	.30
Unknown	-.079	.38
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.286	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.310	<.001
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.204	<.001
Any HRSN		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.223	<.001

Any HRSNs and Avoidable ED Visits

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.015	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	.161	<.001
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	.228	<.001
Other	.013	.86
Unknown	.023	.86
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.349	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.333	<.001
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.201	<.001
Any HRSN		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.278	<.001

Any HRSNs and Readmissions

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	-.019	.02
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.234	.01
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.325	.01
Other	-.309	.30
Unknown	-.063	.90
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.032	.78
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.095	.39
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.536	<.001
Any HRSN		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.184	.06

HRSN Burden and All-Cause Hospital Stays

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.004	.03
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.050	.01
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.204	<.001
Other	-.138	.02
Unknown	-.007	.95
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.030	.27
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.054	.04
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.343	<.001
HRSN Burden		
0 (ref)	--	
1	.023	.37
2	.163	<.001
3	.166	<.001
4	.200	<.001
5+	.272	<.001

HRSN Burden and Avoidable Hospital Stays

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.017	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.106	.07
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.035	.66
Other	-.198	.29
Unknown	-.596	.14
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.313	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.210	.003
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.439	<.001
HRSN Burden		
0 (ref)	--	
1	.303	<.001
2	.519	<.001
3	.451	<.001
4	.599	<.001
5+	.749	<.001

HRSN Burden and All-Cause ED Visits

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.016	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	.081	<.001
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	.069	.007
Other	-.064	.22
Unknown	-.073	.42
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.244	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.290	<.001
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.202	<.001
HRSN Burden		
0 (ref)	--	
1	.122	<.001
2	.246	<.001
3	.332	<.001
4	.443	<.001
5+	.582	<.001

HRSN Burden and Avoidable ED Visits

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.017	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	.155	<.001
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	.215	<.001
Other	.005	.94
Unknown	.026	.84
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.307	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.312	<.001
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.199	<.001
HRSN Burden		
0 (ref)	--	
1	.160	<.001
2	.322	<.001
3	.398	<.001
4	.503	<.001
5+	.575	<.001

HRSN Burden and Readmissions

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	-.019	.03
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.237	.01
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.337	.01
Other	-.331	.27
Unknown	-.064	.89
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.012	.92
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.106	.34
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.535	<.001
HRSN Burden		
0 (ref)	--	
1	.067	.58
2	.339	.01
3	.209	.19
4	.194	.36
5+	.288	.23

Individual HRSNs and All-Cause Hospital Stays

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.004	.01
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.053	.01
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.197	<.001
Other	-.136	.03
Unknown	-.002	.98
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.025	.37
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.051	.05
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.342	<.001
Food Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.046	.11
Financial Strain		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.102	<.001
Loneliness		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.027	.50
Unreliable Transportation		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.185	<.001
Utility Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.025	.45
Housing Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.065	.11
Poor Housing Quality		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.028	.28

Individual HRSNs and Avoidable Hospital Stays

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.019	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.107	.07
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.021	.79
Other	-.183	.32
Unknown	-.551	.17
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.313	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.219	.002
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.439	<.001
Food Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.050	.51
Financial Strain		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.368	<.001
Loneliness		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.045	.68
Unreliable Transportation		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.248	.01
Utility Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.009	.92
Housing Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.090	.40
Poor Housing Quality		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.039	.59

Individual HRSNs and All-Cause ED Visits

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.017	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	.081	<.001
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	.080	.002
Other	-.064	.22
Unknown	-.070	.44
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.238	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.288	<.001
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.202	<.001
Food Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.125	<.001
Financial Strain		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.095	<.001
Loneliness		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.189	<.001
Unreliable Transportation		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.222	<.001
Utility Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.029	.33
Housing Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.108	.003
Poor Housing Quality		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.051	.03

Individual HRSNs and Avoidable ED Visits

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	.017	<.001
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	.155	<.001
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	.229	<.001
Other	.010	.90
Unknown	.031	.81
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.308	<.001
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.310	<.001
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.199	<.001
Food Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.131	<.001
Financial Strain		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.119	<.001
Loneliness		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.257	<.001
Unreliable Transportation		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.162	<.001
Utility Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.038	.37
Housing Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.045	.39
Poor Housing Quality		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.108	.001

Individual HRSNs and Readmissions

Dependent Variable	Coefficient	P-value
Age	-.015	.08
Sex		
Male (ref)	--	
Female	-.252	.007
Race		
White (ref)	--	
Black	-.318	.02
Other	-.336	.26
Unknown	-.005	.99
Dual Medicare and Medicaid Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.008	.94
Social Security Disability Eligible		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.112	.31
Elixhauser Comorbidity Index	.535	<.001
Food Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.006	.96
Financial Strain		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.367	<.001
Loneliness		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.163	.35
Unreliable Transportation		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.434	.002
Utility Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.320	.04
Housing Insecurity		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	.034	.85
Poor Housing Quality		
No (ref)	--	
Yes	-.225	.06

*All regression also included hospital referral region (HRR) fixed effects. The coefficients for each HRR are not shown.

eTable 4. Association between Individual Health-Related Social Needs and Rates of Hospital Stays and ED Visits, with Each HRSN Modeled Independently

	Marginal Effect^d of HRSN on Rates of Utilization per 1,000 Beneficiaries (95% CI)			
	All-Cause Hospital Stays^a	Avoidable^b Hospital Stays	All-Cause ED Visits	Avoidable^c ED Visits
Food Insecurity	35.3* (21.9-48.7)	12.9* (6.8-18.9)	107.4* (87.5-127.4)	45.5* (34.4-56.6)
Financial Strain	37.1* (26.1-48.1)	17.4* (12.5-22.2)	80.5* (64.9-96.0)	36.3* (27.5-45.1)
Loneliness	27.8* (6.3-49.2)	9.6 (-0.0-19.2)	144.6* (108.1-181.2)	70.3* (49.4-91.3)
Unreliable Transportation	66.6* (46.2-86.9)	18.5* (9.3-27.7)	158.4* (126.3-190.4)	54.7* (37.6-71.7)
Utility Insecurity	4.3 (-12.5-21.1)	3.7 (-3.7-11.1)	46.0* (21.1-70.8)	21.0* (6.9-35.0)
Housing Insecurity	35.0* (12.9-57.0)	10.7* (0.8-20.7)	106.5* (72.7-140.2)	33.2* (15.1-51.4)
Poor Housing Quality	7.3 (-5.6-20.2)	6.8* (1.0-12.6)	60.3* (41.3-79.3)	33.5* (22.7-44.3)

^aCalculated from negative binomial regression model estimating the association between individual HRSNs and utilization measures. Models adjust for age, sex, race, disability, dual-eligibility, and Elixhauser comorbidity index, with HRR fixed effects. The reference group for all marginal effects is beneficiaries not reporting that specific HRSN.

^bHospital stays are an aggregate of inpatient admissions and observation stays.

^cAvoidable hospital stays were defined using the Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Prevention Quality Indicators (PQI) definition.¹⁹

^dAvoidable ED were defined using the New York University Emergency Department (ED) visit algorithm, and subsequent algorithm “patch.”^{20,21}

*Indicates statistical significance at the $P < .05$ level