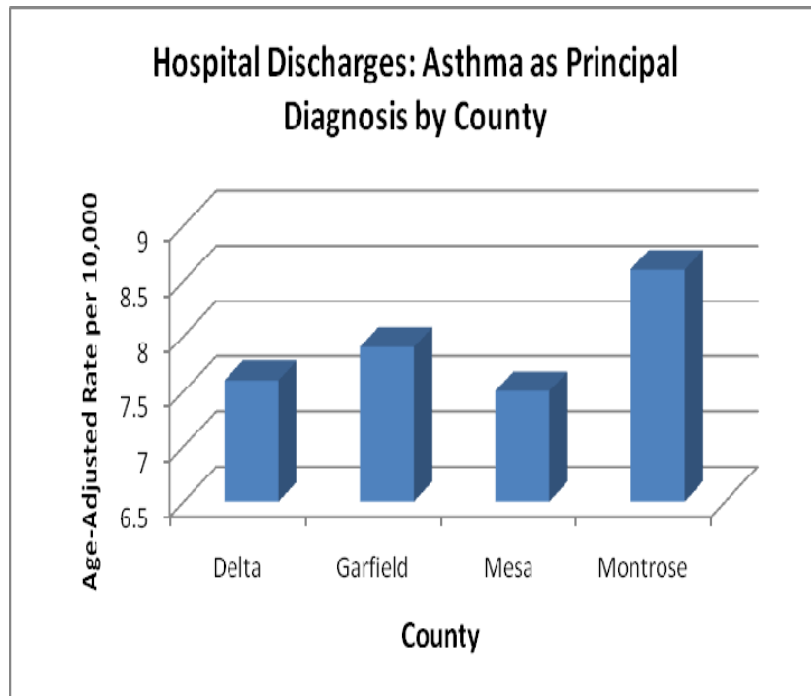


- **Asthma Hospitalization Rates**

Colorado state data for county rates of hospitalization discharges with a principal diagnosis of asthma for the years 1993-2001 are provided in the graph below (Health Statistics Section, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment). The age-adjusted rates are per 10,000 county residents. Rates were adjusted to the 2000 U.S. population using the direct method applied to 10-year age groups.

Figure 90.



Rocky Mountain Health Plans Member Data for Health Plan Usage by County; Grand River Health District and Valley View Hospital Emergency Room Admissions Data by Zip Code

Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) is a non-profit health insurance provider, operating in Colorado. The company's main office is in Grand Junction, Colorado. RMHP provides health insurance to a large proportion of insured individuals in the four comparison counties, although only about 7% of the population of Garfield County is insured by RMHP. We were able to obtain ambulatory, emergency room, inpatient and outpatient hospital visit data for RMHP members in all four counties for the years 2000 through 2007. The limitations of these data, with respect to providing valid comparative information are the fact that fewer individuals are insured by RMHP in Garfield County than in the other three counties (although all rates are adjusted to member months), and the demographics of the RMHP-insured populations most likely varies among the counties. Thus, these comparisons should be viewed with caution. Complete datasets and graphs may be found in the Appendix P.

Only those DRG disorder categories that had at least 200 visits per 1000 Member Months were included in the analysis. Rates are per 1,000 member months.

The Grand River Hospital District (located in Rifle, CO) provided emergency room admission data for the years 2004, 2005, and 2006. These data were organized into the same DRG categories as used for the RMHP member data. Admissions data were sorted by community of residence. As might be expected by the location of the hospital relative to communities within Garfield County, there are few admissions recorded for residents of Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, or New Castle. Thus, only the data for residents of Parachute, Rifle, and Silt are usable and will be discussed in this report. Where Grand River ER visit data differed substantively from the RMHP data for Garfield County, as a whole, the Grand River data are highlighted. Please note that, because of the limitations described above for these data, it is not reasonable to directly compare rates, but it is possible to compare and observe rate trends. A change in rate over a one-year period is NOT sufficient to determine whether an apparent trend is significant or an “outlier”. Tables 28-31 discuss these relative trends in the data. Rates are per 1,000 visits. Complete datasets and graphs may be found in the Appendix Q. Of note is the fact that Garfield County residents had the lowest usage rates for annual physical exam visits (adults) and well check-ups (children) of all of the comparison counties over the entire 8-year period. With regard to these low rates, it is also important to note that these rates are for an insured population for which annual physical exams and well-child check-ups are provided.

Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs provided emergency room data by zip code of residence for visits that occurred between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2006. These data were also organized into the DRG categories used for Grand River Hospital District and RMHP member data. Similar to what is described above for the other emergency room data, there are limitations to the possible use and interpretation of the Valley View Hospital data. By far, the largest numbers of emergency room visits were from residents of the Glenwood Springs zip codes. Because the rate calculations (visits by DRG category per 1000 persons) use an estimate of the population residing in each zip code area – and the margin of error increases inversely with the size of the area (i.e., the smaller the geographic area the larger the margin of error in the population estimate) – the rates calculated for each population should only be taken as estimates. To add to the uncertainty of comparing rates among these zip code populations, the data are subdivided into Adult and Child categories. The age categories for data provided by Valley View Hospital were different than those for data provided by Grand River Hospital District and RMHP; Valley View Hospital categorized 0-25 year old individuals as children, while RMHP and Grand River Hospital District designated 0-18 year old individuals as children. Thus, the age categories are not entirely comparable. Finally, the time periods for data provided by Valley View Hospital and the other data sources are not completely overlapping. Because of these limitations in comparing and interpreting the Valley View Hospital emergency room data, with respect to the other two emergency room data sources – and because of the relatively small numbers of emergency room visits for residents of zip code areas other than Glenwood Springs, only the data for the Glenwood Springs zip codes (81601 and 81602) are discussed in the report. It is also important to note that, in the case of smaller populations and shorter time periods (e.g., the September through December 2006 period), a single visit has a greater impact

on the rate, thus making the rates unreliable and the data sets useful only for estimating trends. The complete Valley View Hospital data set and analysis are available in Appendix R.

Table 28. Emergency Room Admissions Data DRG Category	CHA data (2000-1st Q 2007)	RMHP (2000-2007) Inpatient Hospital	Outpatient/Ambulatory	Emergency Room	GRHD ER (2004-2006)	Valley View ER* (2004-2006)
Accident, Injury, Trauma	Garfield County's injury hospitalization rates increased for adults (>18 years) after 2005, but still remained lower than the rates for Mesa and Delta Counties. Accident, injury and trauma hospitalization rates for children (<18 years) residing in Garfield County are the lowest among the four counties.	Garfield County's rates were the lowest among the four counties until 2005 for both adults and children, and remained the lowest for children through 2007.	Same as for inpatient visit rates.	Adult emergency room visits related to accident, injury or trauma increased from 2003 through 2005, then slightly decreased through 2007.	Emergency room visit data for Grand River Hospital District show increasing rates for Silt, Parachute/Battlement Mesa, and Rifle residents for the period 2004-2006.	Adult ER visit rates were stable throughout the period. Rates for children/young adults decreased between 2004 and 2005, then remained stable for the rest of the period.
Annual Physicals/Well Child Check-ups	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties. Note: These are RMHP data for insured individuals!	Not applicable.	Not applicable.	Not applicable.
Birthing, Pregnancy, GYN	Rates are consistently higher for Garfield County than for Delta, Mesa and Montrose Counties.	Garfield County residents had lower utilization rates than did residents of Delta, Mesa and Montrose Counties. <i>This is likely a reflection of the difference in utilization patterns of insured and uninsured populations.</i>	Same as for inpatient visits.	Same as for inpatient visits.	Data show an increase in birthing and pregnancy-related patient visits for 2005 through 2006 for Silt, Parachute/Battlement Mesa and Rifle residents.	Adult ER visit rates were stable over the period; ER visit rates for this category decreased among young adults. ER visits for conditions in the perinatal period increased through the time period.

Abbreviations: DRG = Diagnosis-Related Group; CHA = Colorado Hospital Association; RMHP = Rocky Mountain Health Plans; GRHD = Grand River Hospital District. *Data presented for Glenwood Springs zip code areas only.

DRG Category	CHA data (2000-1st Q 2007)	RMHP (2000-2007) Inpatient Hospital	Outpatient/Ambulatory	Emergency Room	GRHD ER (2004-2006)	Valley View ER* (2004-2006)
Circulation/Cardiac	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties.	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties for both adults and children. Rates show an increasing trend from 2003-2006.	Same as for inpatient visits.	Same as for inpatient visits.	Rates for Silt, Parachute/Battlement Mesa and Rifle residents show an increasing trend for the time period.	Adult ER visits for this category were stable over the period; child/young adult visits decreased.
Endocrine/Metabolic	Overall, Garfield County hospitalization rates for these disorders are not different than the rates for the other three counties. However, diabetes-related hospitalization rates for both adults and children in Garfield County are the lowest among the four counties.	Rates are consistent with the CHA data for both adults and children.	Same as for ER visits.	ER visit rates for these disorders are generally lower for both adult and child residents of Garfield County than for the other three counties; rates show a slight increasing trend over the time period.	Rates for Silt, Parachute/Battlement Mesa and Rifle residents show an increasing trend for the time period.	Adult ER visits decreased between 2004 and 2005, then remained stable for the remainder of the period. Child/young adult rates increased between 2004 and 2005, then decreased from 2005 through 2006.

Abbreviations: DRG = Diagnosis-Related Group; CHA = Colorado Hospital Association; RMHP = Rocky Mountain Health Plans; GRHD = Grand River Hospital District. *Data presented for Glenwood Springs zip code areas only.

DRG Category	CHA data (2000-1st Q 2007)	Inpatient Hospital	RMHP (2000-2007) Outpatient/Ambulatory	Emergency Room	GRHD ER (2004-2006)	Valley View ER* (2004-2006)
<p>Ear, Nose, Throat, Respiratory</p>	<p>Garfield County has the highest rate for otitis media, upper respiratory infections, bronchitis, and asthma in children. <i>Asthma hospitalizations have been higher than in either Mesa or Delta Counties since 1993, but were lower than in Montrose County for the period, 1993-2001.</i> Garfield adult hospitalization rates for these conditions were lowest among the counties, as were the rates for COPD and other respiratory infections and inflammations for both adults and children. Exceptions are simple pneumonia and pleurisy in children, which, until 2005, were highest among the four counties.</p>	<p>Hospitalization rates for adult ENT and respiratory conditions were the lowest among the four counties for adults and similar to the other counties for children.</p>	<p>Garfield County outpatient/ambulatory visits for adults were the lowest among the four counties, but highest among the four counties for children. Garfield County rates decreased for both adults and children from 2005 through 2007.</p>	<p>Garfield County ER visit rates for adults were the lowest among the four counties and were stable over the 8-year period. Rates for children in Garfield County increase steadily from 2000-2003, but are similar to those for the other three counties.</p>	<p>ER visit rates for Silt, Parachute/Battlement Mesa, and Rifle residents are variable, but generally increasing over the time period.</p>	<p>Adult ER visits for otitis media increased between 2004 and 2005, then decreased from 2005 through 2006. Rates for respiratory conditions, in general, and asthma, specifically, were stable throughout the time period. Child/young adult ER visits for otitis media decreased steadily through the time period. Rates for respiratory conditions, overall, were stable, however asthma rates increased.</p>

Abbreviations: DRG = Diagnosis-Related Group; CHA = Colorado Hospital Association; RMHP = Rocky Mountain Health Plans; GRHD = Grand River Hospital District. *Data presented for Glenwood Springs zip code areas only.

DRG Category	CHA data (2000-1st Q 2007)		RMHP (2000-2007)		Emergency Room	GRHD ER (2004-2006)	Valley View ER* (2004-2006)
	Inpatient Hospital	Outpatient/Ambulatory	Inpatient Hospital	Emergency Room			
Eye	No data for this category.	Same as for hospitalization rates.	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties for both adults and children.	Same as for hospitalization rates.	Rates for Silt increased sharply between 2004 and 2005; rate increases for Parachute and Rifle were more gradual for the same time period. Rifle's rates continued to increase through 2006, while Parachute and Silt showed decreasing rates.	Adult ER visits were low and stable throughout the period. Child/young adult rates showed a steady decrease over the time period.	
Gastrointestinal/Urinary	Garfield County's rates are either the lowest among the four counties, or are similar to those of the other counties for this group of disorders.	Rates are consistent with the CHA data for both adults and children.	ER visit rates for these disorders are lower for adults in Garfield County than for the other three counties, and also generally lower for children, but increasing over the time period.	Rates for Silt, Parachute/Battlement Mesa and Rifle residents show an increasing trend for the time period.	Adult ER visits for this category were stable throughout the period. Child/young adult visits increased between 2004 and 2005, then decreased between 2005 and 2006.		
Infection	No data for this category.	Garfield County outpatient/ambulatory visits for adults were the lowest among the four counties, but highest among the four counties for children during the time period 2000 through 2002.	Garfield County ER rates for Garfield County adults were inconsistent, without a sustained trend in either direction, but similar to those for the other counties. Child ER visits for infection-related conditions were generally higher than other counties.	Rates for infection-related ER visits were variable over the time period, without consistent trends for the communities of Parachute/Battlement Mesa, Silt and Rifle.	Adult ER visits for infections decreased throughout the period, as did child/young adult visits.		

DRG Category	CHA data (2000-1st Q 2007)	Inpatient Hospital	RMHP (2000-2007) Outpatient/Ambulatory	Emergency Room	GRHD ER (2004-2006)	Valley View ER* (2004-2006)
Mental	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties.	Garfield County rates are lower than for the other counties and steadily decreasing over the time period.	Same as for hospitalization rates.	Same as for hospitalization rates.	Rates for Rifle and Silt show a gradual increase; rates for Parachute/Battlement Mesa increased steeply between 2005 and 2006.	Overall adult ER visit rates decreased between 2004 and 2005, then increased to 2004 levels between 2005 and 2006. Drug/alcohol-related visits showed a steady increase over the period. The same pattern was seen for children and young adults.
Musculoskeletal	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties.	Rates are consistent with the CHA data for both adults and children.	Same as for inpatient visits.	Same as for inpatient visits.	No data for this category.	Adult visits were stable over the time period, as were child/young adult visits.
Nervous System	Overall, Garfield hospitalization rates for these disorders are lower than for the other counties. For the subcategory of seizure and headache, rates for children in Garfield County have increased since 2004, while decreasing in adults.	Rates are consistent with the CHA data for both adults and children.	Rates are consistent with the CHA data for both adults and children.	Garfield County ER visit rates, overall, were the lowest among the four counties.	Rates for Silt, Parachute/Battlement Mesa and Rifle residents show an increasing trend for the time period.	Adult ER visits, including those related to headaches or migraines, were stable over the period. Child/young adult visits overall increased between 2004 and 2005, then decreased through 2006. Visits related to headaches or migraines increased.

DRG Category	CHA data (2000-1st Q 2007)		RMHP (2000-2007)		Valley View ER* (2004-2006)
	Inpatient Hospital	Emergency Room	Outpatient/Ambulatory	GRHD ER (2004-2006)	
Pancreas/Liver	Rates for these conditions for Delta County were consistently the highest among the four counties. Garfield County's rates were not different from those of Mesa and Montrose Counties.	No data for this category.	No data for this category.	No data for this category.	Included with "Gastrointestinal/urinary" category.
Red Cell/Clotting	Garfield County's rates steadily decreased from 2001 through 2006.	No data for this category.	No data for this category.	No data for this category.	Adult ER rates increased between 2004 and 2005/ Child/young adult rates were stable through 2005, then decreased through 2006.
Skin/Allergy	Rates for these conditions for Delta County were consistently the highest among the four counties. Garfield County's rates were not different from those of Mesa and Montrose Counties.	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, showing periods of moderate rate decrease (2001-2003) and increase (2003-2005).	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, increasing slightly from 2003 to 2004, then decreasing from 2005 through 2007.	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period, except for an increase between 2003 and 2004, decreasing to previous rates in 2006. (Rates for children in Garfield County decreased steadily from 2005 through 2007.)	Adult ER rates were stable. Child/young adult rates decreased through the period.

Table 29. Inpatient Hospital Admissions Data

DRG Category	RMHP Member Data: 2000-2007*	
	Adult (≥18 years)	Child (<18 years)
Accident, Injury & Trauma	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties until 2005, when the rates rise to become higher than those for Montrose County (but still lower than for Delta or Mesa Counties. Garfield County rates remain stable through 2007.	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, and are relatively stable across the 8-year period.
Cardiac	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, slightly increasing from 2004 to 2006.	
Ear, Nose & Throat	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, slightly decreasing from 2001 through 2006	Garfield County's rates are similar to those of Delta and Montrose Counties for most of the time period, increasing in 2001, then decreasing through 2007.
Endocrine	Garfield County's rates are generally the lowest among the counties, and remain relatively stable.	Garfield County's rates are relatively stable and lower than those of the other counties, with the exception of being higher than Delta County's rates in 2002, 2003, and 2006.
Eye	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, and are stable across the time period.	
Gastrointestinal & Urinary	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, and are relatively stable across the 8-year time period.	Garfield County's rates have increased during the 8-year time period, but are generally lower than those of the other counties
Infection	Garfield County's rates were highly variable over	Garfield County's rates peaked in 2003, dropping

	the 8-year time period, as were those for the other counties.	steadily through 2006, the rising again in 2007. These rates were generally similar to those of the other counties.
Mental Health	With the exception of 2000 and 2001, Garfield County's rates were lower than those for the other counties, and decreased steadily from 2001 to 2007.	Garfield County's rates were lower or the same as rates for the other counties throughout the 8-year time period. There was a spike in rates during 2004.
Musculoskeletal	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, and are relatively stable across the 8-year time period.	Garfield County's rates are low and similar to those of the other counties, with the exception of Montrose County, which had a spike in rates for 2005, then dropping to return to the low rates of the other counties by 2007.
Neurological	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, and are relatively stable across the 8-year time period.	
Pregnancy/Gynecological	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, and are relatively stable across the 8-year time period, with a moderate increase from 2002 to through 2004, dropping again in 2005.	
Respiratory Condition	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, and are relatively stable across the 8-year time period, following an increase from 2000 to 2001.	Garfield County's rates increased steadily from 2000 through 2002, remaining stable through 2005, and then decreasing steadily through 2007. These rates are generally similar to those for the other counties, and follow the same trends.
Skin/Allergy	Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the counties, showing periods of moderate rate decrease (2001-2003) and increase (2003-2005).	

Table 30. Outpatient Hospital Visits or Lab Work

RMHP Member Data: 2000-2007*	
DRG Category	Child (<18 years)
Accident, Injury & Trauma	<p style="text-align: center;">Adult (≥18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the comparison counties until 2005, when there was an increase in rates, making Garfield County's rates higher than those of Montrose County, but still lower than those for Delta and Mesa Counties. All of the counties showed a decrease in rates between 2006 and 2007 except Garfield County, whose rates remained stable.</p>
Annual Physical Well Check-ups (child)	<p>Garfield County's rates were among the lowest for the four counties, remaining essentially stable over the 8-year period.</p>
Annual Physical Well Check-ups (child)	<p>Garfield County's rates were the lowest among the four counties for annual physical usage. NOTE: This rate is for an insured population, for which well check-ups are provided.</p>
Cardiac	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties for annual physical usage. NOTE: This rate is for an insured population, for which annual physicals are provided.</p>
Cardiac	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>
Ear, Nose & Throat	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>
Ear, Nose & Throat	<p>Garfield County's rates tend to fall in the middle of the rates for the four comparison counties, increasing between 2000 and 2001, then increasing through 2007.</p>
Endocrine	<p>Garfield County's rates increased from 2001 through 2003, during which time they were higher than those for Delta County but lower than those for Mesa and Montrose Counties. After 2003, Garfield County's rates were stable through 2006, dropping in 2007, and are lower than the other counties for Garfield County's rates increased from 2001 through 2003, below Garfield rates for 2006 only.</p>

Eye	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and show a downward trend from 2005 through 2007.</p>
Gastrointestinal & Urinary	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>	<p>From 2001 until 2003, Garfield County's rates are lower than those for the other counties. After 2003, the rates are higher and more similar to those for Delta and Montrose Counties (Mesa County's rates are higher). Rates increase sharply in 2007 for Garfield and Delta Counties, decreasing for Mesa and Montrose Counties.</p>
Infection	<p>Garfield County rates are generally in the middle of the rates for the four counties, and are relatively stable except for an increase in 2001 and a decrease in 2006.</p>	<p>Garfield County's rates increased steeply between 2000 and 2001, remaining high (relative to the other counties) through 2002, then decreasing through 2006. In 2007, Garfield County's rate was again higher than that for the other counties.</p>
Mental Health	<p>With the exception of a spike in 2001, Garfield County's rates are lower than those for the other counties, and steadily decreased through 2007.</p>	<p>Garfield County's rates are generally lower than those for the other counties. Rates increase between 2000 and 2001, again between 2003 and 2004, decrease through 2006, and turn upward slightly in 2007.</p>
Musculoskeletal	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>	<p>With the exception of steep increase in Montrose County rates in 2005 (followed by a steep downward trend through 2007), rates for all counties are low.</p>
Neurological	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>	<p>With the exception of a steep increase in rates for Montrose County in 2007, rates for all counties are low.</p>

Respiratory Condition

Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.

Rates for Garfield County are among the highest for the four counties (rates for Montrose County are generally higher). Rates increase from 2000 through 2002, then decrease from 2006 through 2007.

Skin/Allergy

Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, increasing slightly from 2003 to 2004, then decreasing from 2005 through 2007.

Garfield County's rates are generally the lowest among the four counties, increasing from 2003 to 2004, then decreasing from 2005 through 2007.

Table 31. Ambulatory Office Visits

RMHP Member Data: 2000-2007*	
DRG Category	Child (<18 years)
Accident, Injury & Trauma	<p>Adult (≥ 18 years)</p> <p>Until 2005, Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties. An increase in rates between 2004 and 2005 puts Garfield County's rates higher than those for Montrose County, but lower than Delta and Mesa Counties, for 2006 through 2007. Garfield County's rates for 2005 through 2007 are stable, while the other counties show decreasing rates for the same period.</p> <p>Child (<18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates go up and down during the 8-year period, but are still generally lower than those for the other four counties.</p>
Annual Physical Well Check-ups (child)	<p>Adult (≥ 18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties for annual physical usage. NOTE: This rate is for an insured population, for which annual physicals are provided.</p> <p>Child (<18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates were the lowest among the four counties for annual physical usage. NOTE: This rate is for an insured population, for which well check-ups are provided.</p>
Cardiac	<p>Adult (≥ 18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties for the entire 8-year period, despite a gradual increase in rates from 2004 through 2006.</p> <p>Child (<18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates generally fall in the middle among the four counties, increasing between 2000 and 2001, then generally decreasing for the remainder of the time period.</p>
Ear, Nose & Throat	<p>Adult (≥ 18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p> <p>Child (<18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are higher than those of Delta County for 2000 through 2003 and again in 2006. Otherwise, Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties.</p>
Endocrine	<p>Adult (≥ 18 years)</p> <p>With the exception of 2001, when Delta County's rates are lower, Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties for the 8-year time period.</p> <p>Child (<18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, with decreasing trends from 2005 through 2007.</p>
Eye	<p>Adult (≥ 18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p> <p>Child (<18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, with decreasing trends from 2005 through 2007.</p>
Gastrointestinal & Urinary	<p>Adult (≥ 18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p> <p>Child (<18 years)</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are generally lower or similar to those of the other counties, increasing between 2003 and 2004, and</p>

Infection	<p>period.</p> <p>Garfield County's rates are highly variable over the 8-year time period, remaining in the middle of those for the other counties for every year except 2006. In 2006, Garfield Counties rates are lower than those for the other counties.</p>	<p>again between 2006 and 2007.</p> <p>Garfield County's rates increased sharply between 2000 and 2001, making them the highest among the counties for 2001 and 2002. Between 2002 and 2006, rates decreased continuously, putting Garfield County in the middle of the other counties. In 2007, rates again increased, making Garfield County the highest among the four counties.</p>
Mental Health	<p>Garfield County rates increased between 2000 and 2001, then decreased steadily through 2007. After 2002, Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties.</p>	<p>Garfield County rates increased between 2000 and 2001 and again in 2004, then decreased between 2004 and 2006, increasing slightly in 2007. Over the 8-year time period, Garfield County rates are either lower than or similar to the rates for the other counties. Mesa County has the highest rates for the entire period.</p>
Musculoskeletal	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>	<p>With the exception of Montrose County's rates for 2005 through 2006, rates for all counties are low and essentially similar. Montrose County's rates rose steeply between 2004 and 2005, then decreased through 2007.</p>
Neurological	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period.</p>	
Pregnancy/Gynecological	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, increasing gradually through 2004, decreasing from 2004 through 2005, and increasing again in 2007.</p>	<p>With the exception of a spike in Montrose County's rates for 2007, all counties have low rates over the 8-year time period.</p>
Respiratory Condition	<p>Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period, except for an increase between 2000 and 2001.</p>	<p>Garfield County's rates increase from 2000 to 2002, remain stable through 2005, then decrease steadily through 2007. These rates are generally in the middle of the rates for the four counties.</p>

Skin/Allergy

Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties, and were generally stable throughout the 8-year period, except for an increase between 2003 and 2004, decreasing to previous rates in 2006.

Garfield County's rates are the lowest among the four counties except for 2001, when Delta County's rates were lower. Garfield County's rates increased between 2003 and 2004, decreasing steadily from 2005 through 2007.