

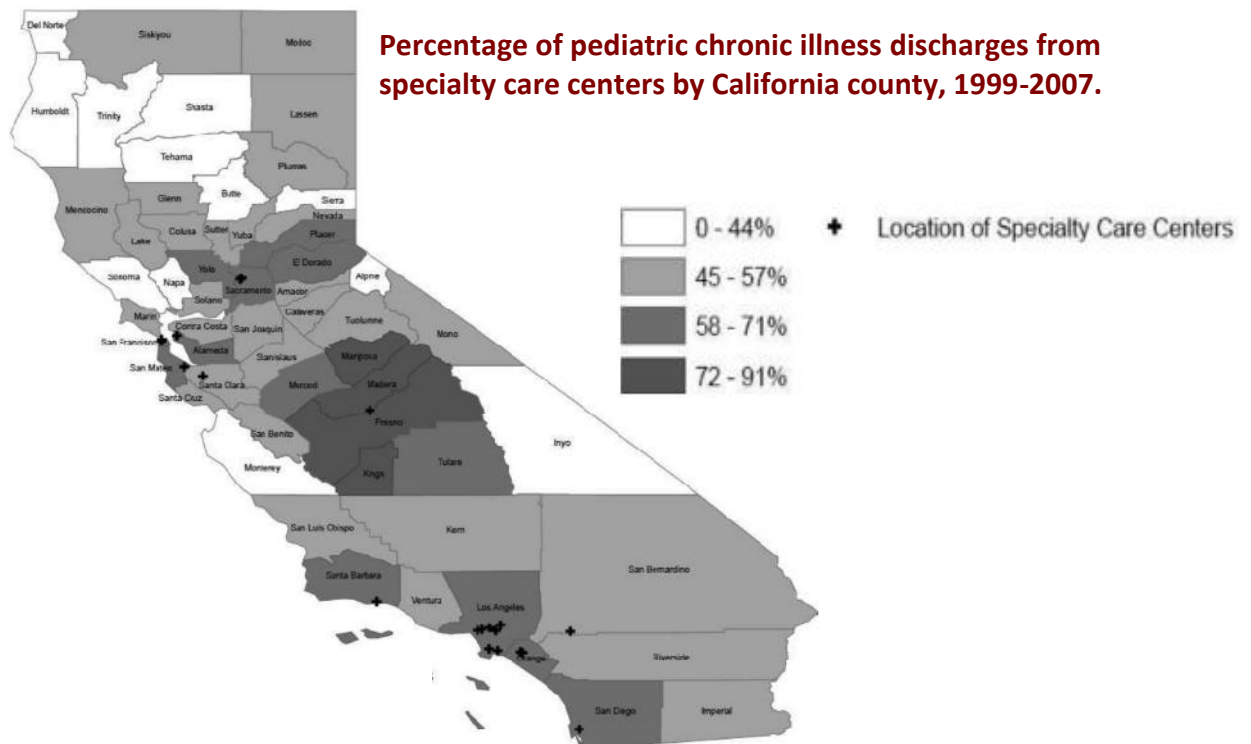
## Variation in Specialty Care Hospitalization for Children with Chronic Conditions in CA

### THE FINDINGS

- **Significant county-level variation exists in specialty care hospitalizations among chronically ill children in California.**
- **Variation exists by type of condition.** Children with the most serious conditions tend to receive hospital care in specialty care facilities.
- **Increased specialty care use** is associated with public insurance and high pediatric specialty care bed supply.
- **Decreased use** was seen for adolescent patients, African American, non-Hispanic children and children residing in zip codes of low-income or located farther from a specialty care center.

### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- **Regional pediatric specialty care centers provide varying access to specialty care for children with serious chronic illness.**
- **Specialty care facilities are vulnerable to shifts in public payer reimbursement.**
- **There needs to be greater scrutiny of clinical outcomes for those with decreased access to specialty care centers** (e.g., adolescents, children from rural areas, etc.).



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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