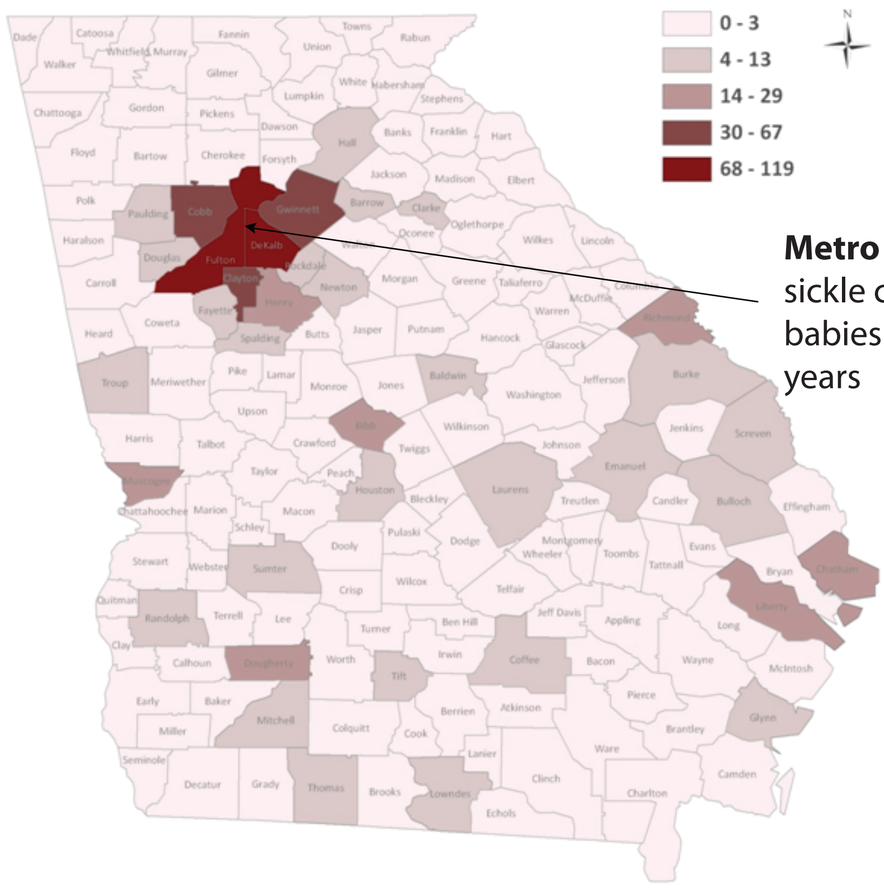
Sickle Cell Disease in Metro Atlanta

Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, Gwinnett

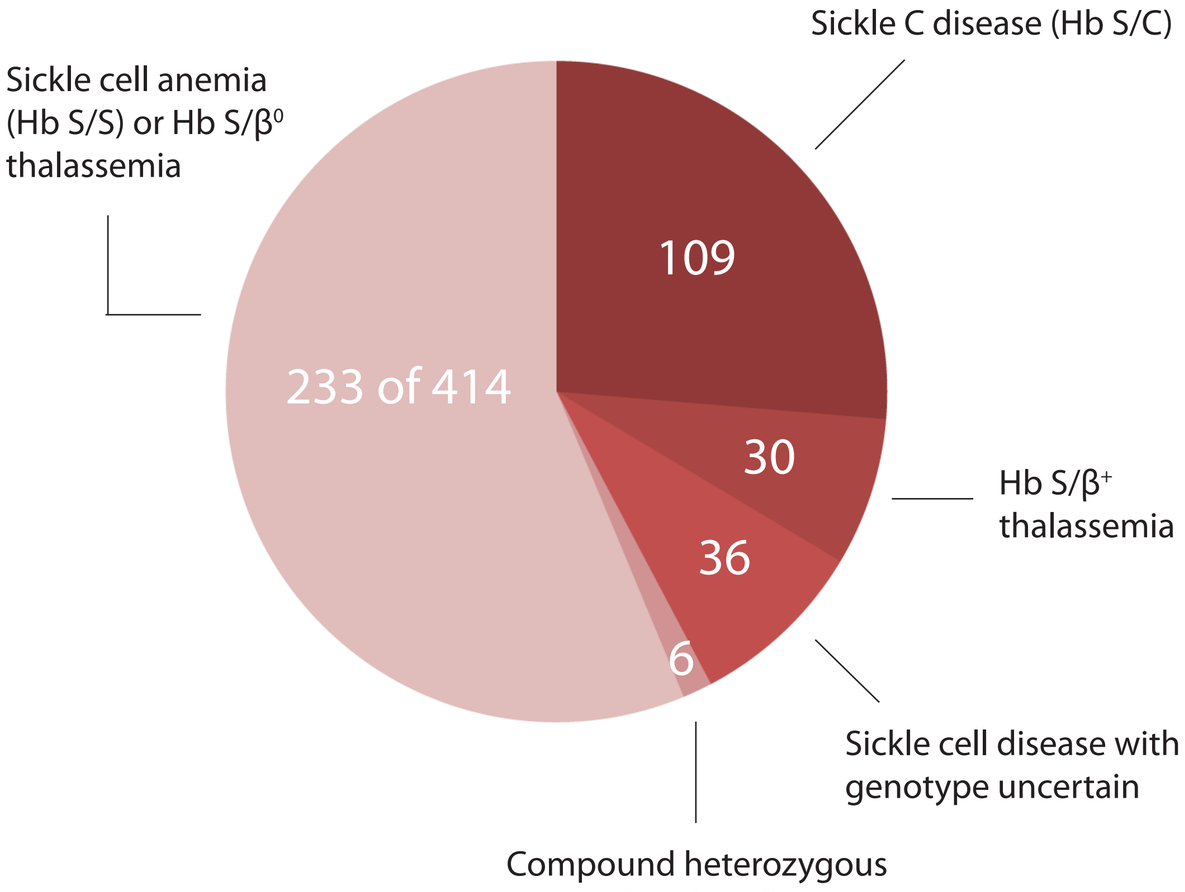
Newborn Screening Tells Us (2004-2008):

Number of Georgia Babies Born with Sickle Cell Disease over Five Years



Metro Atlanta: 414 sickle cell disease babies born in five years

Types of Sickle Cell Disease in Metro Atlanta Babies

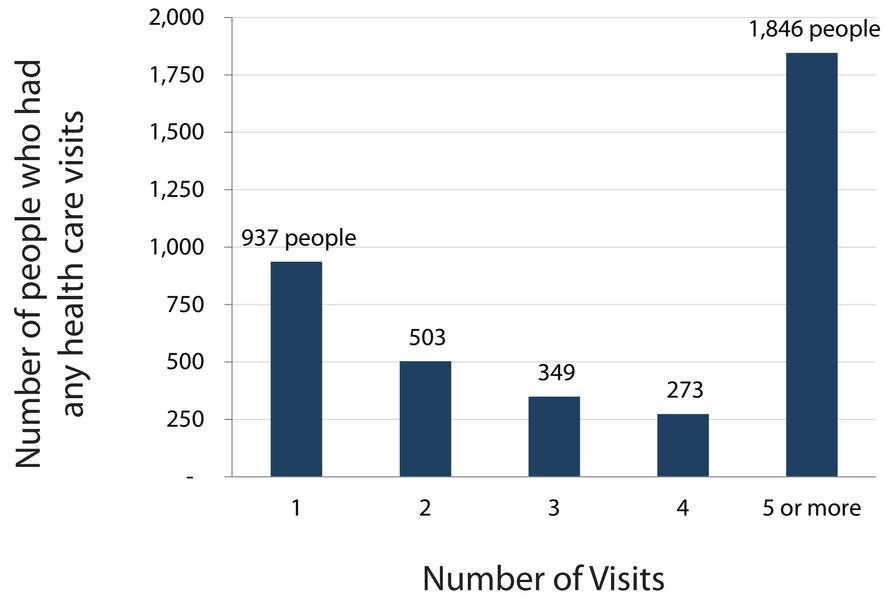


Hospital Billing Records Tell Us (2004-2008):

Sickle Cell Hospital Visits

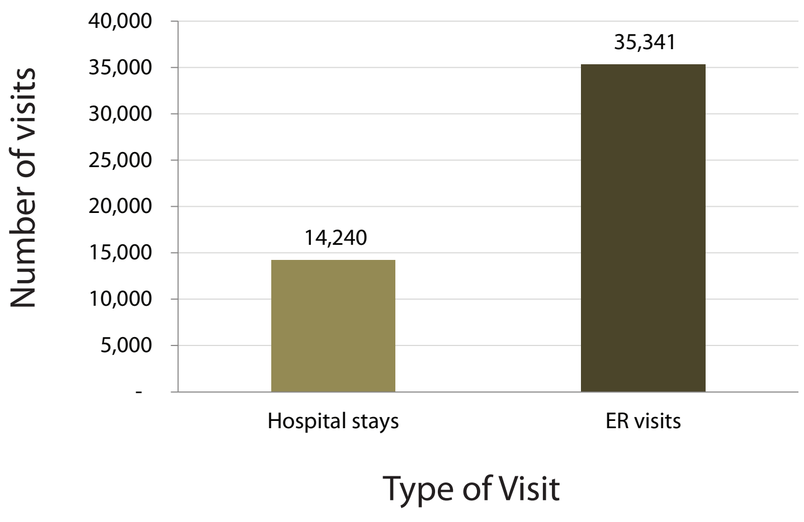
There were 3,908 people from Metro Atlanta who had hospital visits at some time over the five years for problems related to sickle cell disease. Many of these (937) had only one visit. Almost twice as many (1,846) had five or more visits - at least one per year, on average.

Note: We are unable to tell from the records how many people with sickle cell disease did not make any health care visits in this time period.



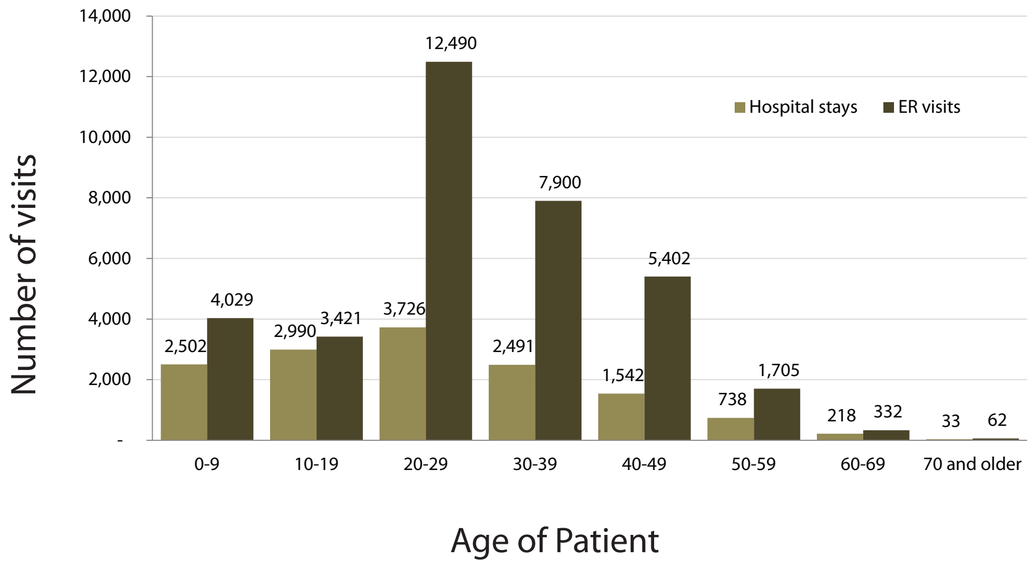
Overnight Hospital Stays and ER Visits

Together, those 3,908 people made a total of 49,581 hospital and ER visits for complications related to sickle cell disease. Many more of those were ER visits (35,341) than overnight hospital stays (14,240).



Hospital Stays and ER Visits by Age Group

This group of 3,908 people made more ER visits than hospital stays in all age groups. People from 20-29 made the most ER visits (12,490) and had the most hospital stays (3,726).



Georgia

Newborn Screening

Newborn Screening is a program to test new babies for conditions that can cause major illness, mental retardation, or even death if not found early and treated. Early diagnosis and proper care and treatment can make a big difference for babies with these conditions. Sickle cell disease is one of the conditions tested for in Georgia.

Newborn screening is directed by the Georgia Department of Public Health in collaboration with doctors and hospitals across the state. Since 1969 over two million babies have been screened in Georgia.

Registry and Surveillance System for Hemoglobinopathies (RuSH)

Georgia is one of seven states participating in the RuSH project. The goal of RuSH is to find out how many people in Georgia have sickle cell disease or thalassemia in order to improve health care and other resources for these populations.

The data presented here for your part of the state shows the kind of information RuSH was designed to collect and how it can be useful. Knowing there are more ER visits than hospital stays, and what ages of patients make the most visits, can help hospitals, health departments, patient advocates and others better serve people with sickle cell disease.

Six organizations with a range of perspectives and expertise are partnering on the RuSH project in Georgia:

- Newborn Screening Unit, *Georgia Department of Public Health*
- Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of Georgia, Inc.
- Georgia Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, *Grady Health System*
- Aflac Cancer Center and Blood Disorders Service, *Children's HealthCare of Atlanta*
- Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center, *Georgia Health Sciences University*
- Georgia Health Policy Center, *Georgia State University*

Sickle Cell Centers and Clinics in Georgia

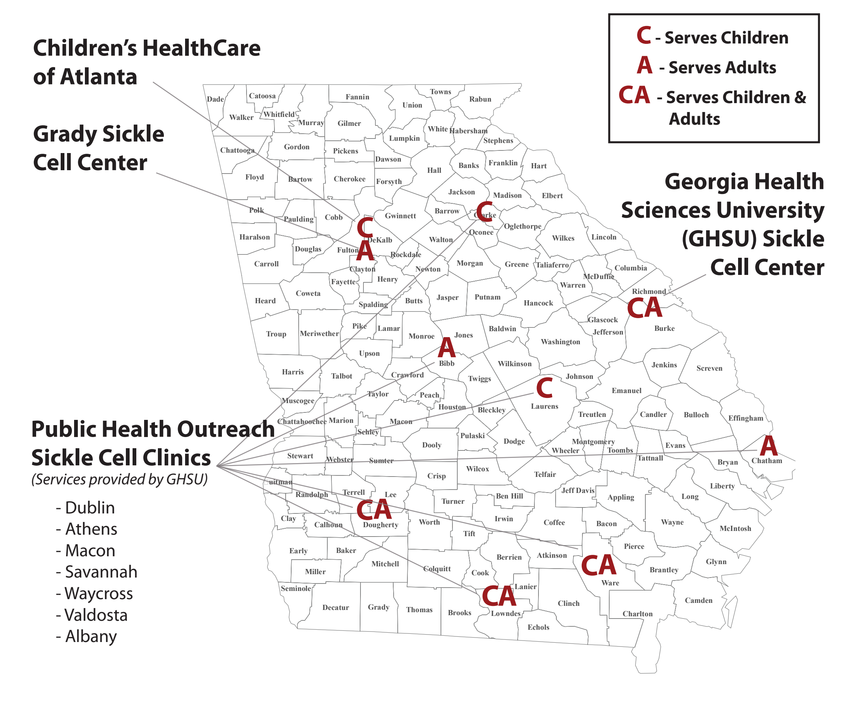
Children's HealthCare of Atlanta

Grady Sickle Cell Center

Georgia Health Sciences University (GHSU) Sickle Cell Center

Public Health Outreach Sickle Cell Clinics
(Services provided by GHSU)

- Dublin
- Athens
- Macon
- Savannah
- Waycross
- Valdosta
- Albany



Facts

Not just African Americans get sickle cell disease.

People whose families come from any part of the world can have sickle cell disease. That is why states in the U.S. test all newborn babies for the disease.

There are different types of sickle cell disease.

Sickle cell disease affects each person differently. There are different types of the disease, some that are severe and others that are mild. It is important to know which type you have and tell your doctor. Some of the different types of sickle cell disease are shown on the charts at right.

It's important to know if you have sickle cell trait even if you don't have any symptoms.

Some people inherit a sickle cell gene from one parent and a normal gene from the other. In this case, they have sickle cell trait, not sickle cell disease. It is possible to have health complications from sickle cell trait unless you know what to do to avoid them. It is also possible to pass sickle cell trait or even sickle cell disease on to your children if both parents carry the sickle gene.

Pain is the most common symptom of sickle cell disease.

Sickle cells travel through small blood vessels and clog blood flow. This causes mild to severe pain that can start suddenly and last for any amount of time.

People with sickle cell disease can do things to reduce complications.

These are some things that are important to do if you have sickle cell disease:

- Get regular checkups
- Get recommended vaccinations
- Prevent infections
- Learn healthy eating habits
- Get support from others

Adapted from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Sickle Cell Disease Quiz: http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/quiz/index.html

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