

Risk Management News

[\[Home\]](#) [\[Learn More About Us\]](#) [\[What We're Up To These Days\]](#)
[\[Captive News\]](#) [\[Editorial\]](#) [\[Risk Management Quiz\]](#)
[\[Insurance Industry News\]](#) [\[The Talking Head\]](#) [\[Talk To Us\]](#)

Part 2: Having A "High Volume" Heart Attack

Hot off the press, is an article we can commend to the attention of every risk manager, which appeared on May 27th in [The New England Journal of Medicine](#).

This article summarizes a study recently undertaken by Dr. David R. Thiemann (also the author of the article), and shows a strong and irrefutable link to heart attack survival rates and the hospital where the patient is first treated.

From February, 1994 to July, 1995 Dr. Thiemann and his research group found that, among a group of 100,000 patients 65 or older who had suffered heart attacks, patients survived longer and received better care at so-called "high-volume" hospitals where many heart attack patients are seen, as opposed to those facilities treating fewer patients, labeled for purposes of this study, "low-volume" facilities.

Dr. Thiemann defined as "high-volume," any facility treating more than 4.4 heart attack patients a week, with low-volume defined as 1.4 or fewer. Within the first 30 days after a heart attack, approximately 16.7% of these patients died in low-volume facilities, where 14.4% died in high-volume hospitals. In fact, among those patients in the bottom end of the age grouping - 65 to 69 - the survival rate was double in high-volume centers as compared to low volume ones.

We hear horror stories all the time about ambulances stuck in a big-city traffic jams. However, this study also revealed that when you plan your heart attack, you should plan to have it in the city. Rural patients are 11% more liable to die than those city dwellers suffering the same symptoms.

This is an excellent article and we urge risk managers to take a closer look.

[Go to Part 3: Moving Outside The Four Walls](#)



Plan Your Heart Attack In Advance!

Go to:

[Part 1: Expanding The National Practitioner Data Bank](#)

[Part 3: Moving Outside The Four Walls](#)

[Part 4: It's Time To Burn The Diplomas](#)

[Part 5: The News -- Good And Bad On The Managed Care Front](#)

[\[Home\]](#) [\[Learn More About Us\]](#) [\[What We're Up To These Days\]](#)
[\[Captive News\]](#) [\[Editorial\]](#) [\[Risk Management Quiz\]](#)
[\[Insurance Industry News\]](#) [\[The Talking Head\]](#) [\[Talk To Us\]](#)

[Back to top...](#)