A substantial proportion of SSSI patients presenting to the ED are hospitalized, with results supporting evidence that recent admission rates are increasing. It is important to note that the majority of patients admitted are those discharged home following an ED visit (p<0.0001).

Inclusion criteria for the analysis were:
- Patients ≥18 years of age
- Admission and discharge status
- ICD-9-CM diagnosis and external cause of injury codes
- Varying insurance
- Median age 40 years (27.3–53.5 IQR)
- 52% Male
- 1.4 times greater for patients with Medicare as compared to those with private insurance (p<0.0001)
- 2.1 times higher for those aged 45–64 than 18–44 (RR=2.13, p<0.0001)
- Greater for those visiting hospitals in the Northeast region compared to those in other regions (p<0.0001)
- Inpatient admissions among patients with SSSIs were 2.5 times higher in Level I/II/III trauma hospitals compared to non-trauma hospitals (p<0.0001)
- Moderate to Severe Liver Disease 0.7% 0.01%
- Myocardial Infarction 3.3% 0.6%
- Any Malignancy 3.7% 0.3%
- Chronic Pulmonary Disease 18.1% 3.7%
- Diabetes without complications 25.4% 8.0%
- Congestive Heart Failure 10.1% 0.7%
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease 13.6% 0.3%
- Dementia 1.6% 0.04%
- Cancer 11.5% 0.2%
- Diabetes with complications 0.5% 0.0%
- MI Unit Discharge 0.2% 0.0%
- Any Malpractice 3.7% 0.0%
- Malignant Neoplasm 3.0% 0.0%
- Obstructive Sleep Apnea 2.0% 0.0%
- Coronary Artery Disease 17.9% 3.0%
- Hypertensive Heart Disease 1.6% 0.04%
- Postpartum Hemorrhage 0.1% 0.0%
- Hypertension 15.9% 0.3%
- Hospital Admission
- Home Discharge
- Discharge to Short-Term Hospital
- Discharge to SNF
- Discharge to Home Health Care

Methodology:
- Using the HCUP-NSQIP database, a total of 1,046,468 adults with SSSIs were seen in the ED from 2008 to 2010. NSQIP represented 0.2% of ED encounters.
- A primary diagnosis of SSSI was determined using the ICD-9-CM codes listed above. A secondary diagnosis was assigned following the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Edition (ICD-9) guidelines provided by HCUP.
- Only patients admitted to the same hospital as the ED visit were captured with NSQIP and private insurance.

REFERENCES