



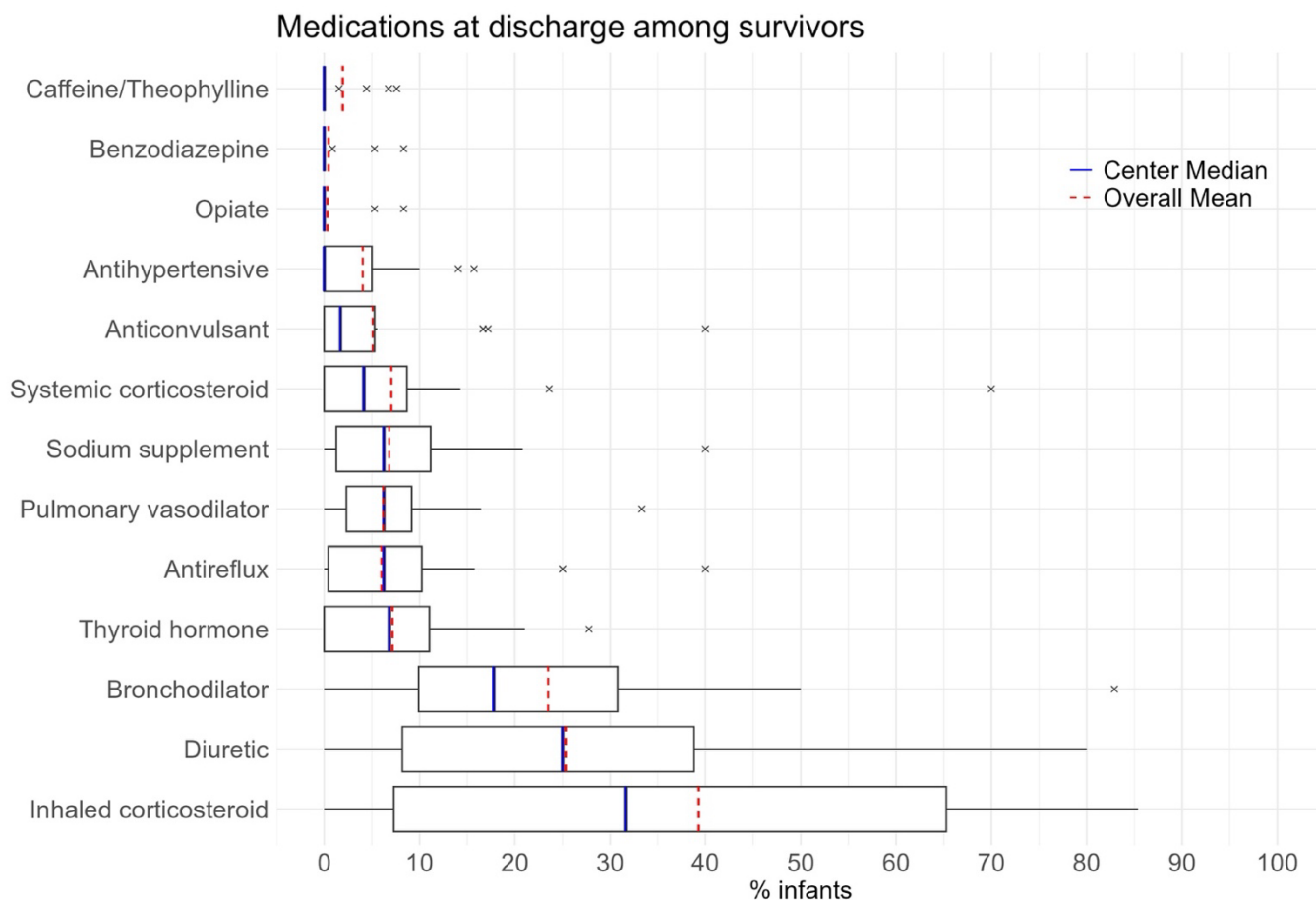
Medications at Discharge

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Among 865 infants ≤ 23 weeks' gestation discharged home from NICUs participating in the Tiny Baby Collaborative between 2019 and 2024, the most common medications prescribed at discharge were inhaled corticosteroids (38% of survivors), diuretics (24%) and bronchodilators (21%).

The figure below shows variation in discharge medications among 19 hospitals in the Collaborative that discharged home 10 or more eligible infants during the study period. For inhaled corticosteroids, for example, prescription rates ranged from 0% to 85% across hospitals. Half of hospitals prescribed inhaled corticosteroids to at least one-third of infants discharged home (blue line). We lack data on the safety or efficacy of prolonged use of the listed medications after discharge—this area deserves further research.



Boxes represent the interquartile range (IQR) of hospital rates of prescription at discharge. The blue line represents the average (median) hospital. The red line represents the average rate regardless of hospital (grand mean). Horizontal whiskers represent the hospital range within 1.5 times the IQR, with hospitals outside of these bounds depicted as outliers (x).