

**Hospital Morbidity Survey  
Year 2014**

**In 2014, the number of discharges in Spain increases 1.8%**

**Diseases of the circulatory system cause the largest number of hospital stays (15.1% of the total)**

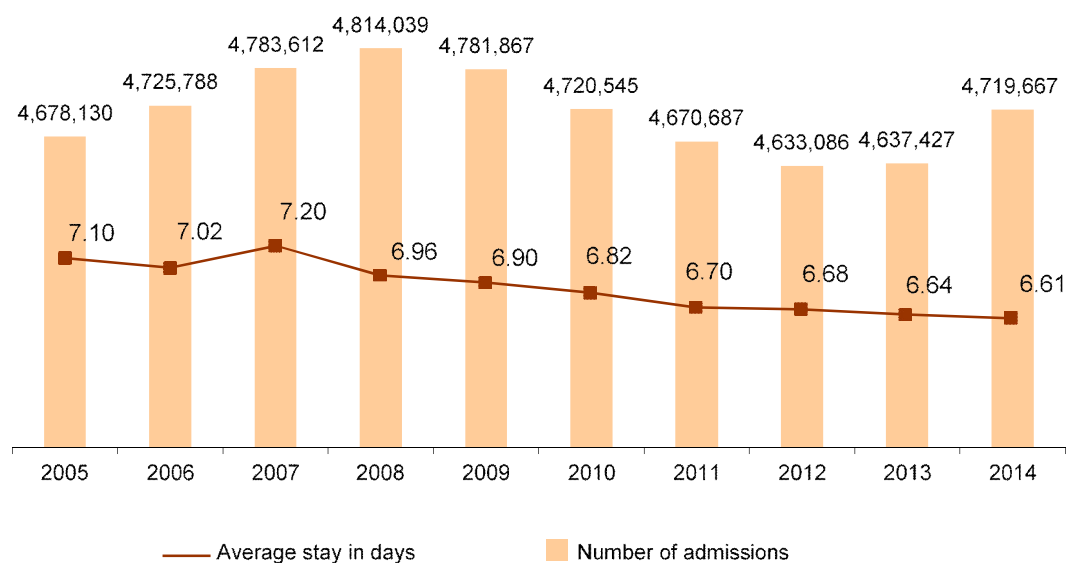
**The average stay in hospitals is 6.61 days**

In 2014, there were 4,719,667 discharges registered, representing a 1.8% increase as compared with 2013. This was the second increase in the number of discharges after four consecutive years of decreases.

By sex, discharges of men increased 1.7%, while those of women increased 1.8% (excluding pregnancy and delivery, where an increase of 2.3% was registered).

Although more than half of admissions were of women (52.9%), if those resulting from pregnancy, delivery and puerperium were excluded, the percentage of admissions would account for 47.4%.

**Number of admissions and average stay in days. Years 2005-2014**



As compared to 2013, discharges in public hospitals increased by 1.5%, whereas in private hospitals they increased by 2.6%. Public hospitals comprised 72.0% of discharges<sup>1</sup>.

10,160 discharges were registered per 100,000 persons, that is, a 2.1% increase as compared to the previous year (in 2013, the rate was 9,953 discharges per 100,000). This was the second increase in hospital morbidity rate, after nine years registering decreases.

The rate for males increased 2.2% as compared to 2013, standing at 9,737 admissions per 100,000 men. For females, the rate increased by 2.0%, reaching 10,569 admissions per 100,000 women. However, excluding admissions due to pregnancy, delivery and puerperium, the rate for women increased by 2.5%, reaching 8,483 admissions per 100,000 women.

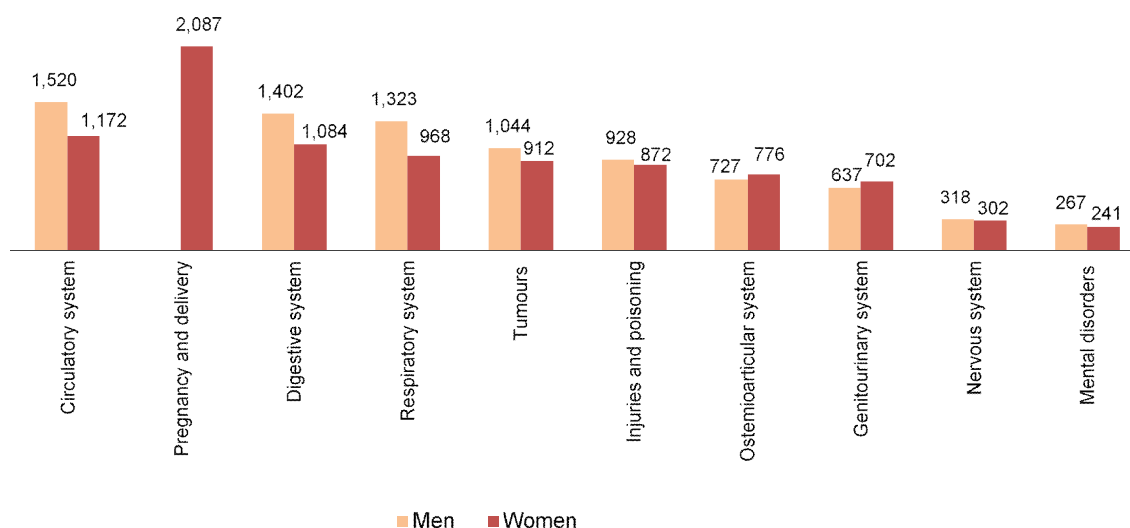
### Main admission diagnoses

In 2014, the main reasons for hospitalisations were *diseases of the circulatory system* (13.2% of admissions), the group of *diseases of the digestive system* (12.2%) and *diseases of the respiratory system* (11.2%).

For women, the most common reasons for admission were *pregnancy, delivery and puerperium* (19.7% of the total admissions), followed by *diseases of the circulatory system* (11.1%) and *diseases of the digestive system* (10.3%).

For men, the most common diseases for admission were *diseases of the circulatory system* (15.6% of the total), followed by *diseases of the digestive system* (14.4%) and *diseases of the respiratory system* (13.6%).

Admissions per 100,000 inhabitants by most frequent groups of diagnosis and sex. Year 2013.



<sup>1</sup> The public or private nature of hospitals is determined by the body or legal entity from whom the hospital depends, that is, the individual or the legal entity who has closest the power or jurisdiction, hierarchical or functional, to the Health Establishment. The classification of functional dependency of the hospitals with management legal status under the Law 15/1997, of 25th April, on Adaptation of new ways of management in the National Health System, and according to Autonomous legal developments, has been assigned to the corresponding Health Services.

The group of diseases that registered the greatest number of hospitalisations was that of *diseases of the respiratory system* (4.8%) and *Infectious and parasitic diseases* (3.9%).

On the contrary, the greatest decreases as compared with the previous year were registered in admissions due to *Congenital anomalies* (-2.2%) and *diseases of the nervous system and sensory organs* (-0.6%).

## Admissions by large groups of diseases

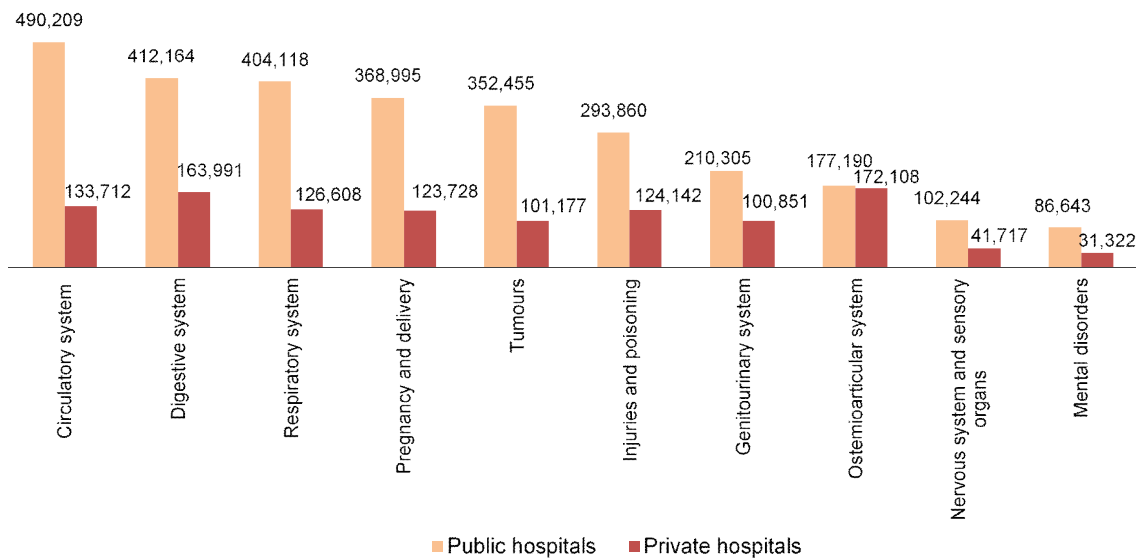
	Nº altas	Variación anual
TOTAL ALTAS	4.719.667	1,8
Circulatory system	623.921	0,9
Digestive system	576.156	1,8
Respiratory system	530.726	4,8
Pregnancy and delivery	492.723	0,0
Tumours	453.632	0,4
Injuries and poisoning	418.002	1,5
Ostemioarticular system	349.298	2,2
Genitourinary system	311.156	3,2
Poorly-defined symptoms, signs and morbid states	198.000	1,2
Nervous system and sensory organs	143.961	-0,6
Mental disorders	117.965	1,7
Infectious and parasitic diseases	100.256	3,9
V Codes (main diagnosis only)*	97.679	-2,7
Endocrine and metabolic diseases	86.195	1,4
Diseases originated in the perinatal period	64.181	0,3
Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases	48.303	3,4
Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs	43.928	0,3
Congenital anomalies	38.190	-2,2
Admissions without diagnosis	25.395	72,2

\* V Codes are those circumstances that are not considered disease or injury but can affect a patient's medical condition or treatment or cause contact with the medical system. For example, persons who are not ill contact with the medical system for a specific reason (organ donor, vaccination, etc.), persons with cured diseases that require specific treatment afterwards (dialysis, chemotherapy, etc.), circumstances that affect medical condition but are not diseases (sterilization, cosmetic surgery, etc.)

According to the functional dependency of the hospital, in public hospitals the main reason for hospitalisation were *diseases of the circulatory system* (14.4%), and *diseases of the digestive system* (12.1%).

In private hospitals, the most common reasons for hospitalisation were *diseases of the osteo-mioarticular system* (13.0%) and *diseases of the digestive system* (12.4%).

**Number of admissions by most frequent groups of diagnosis and type of hospital. Year 2014**

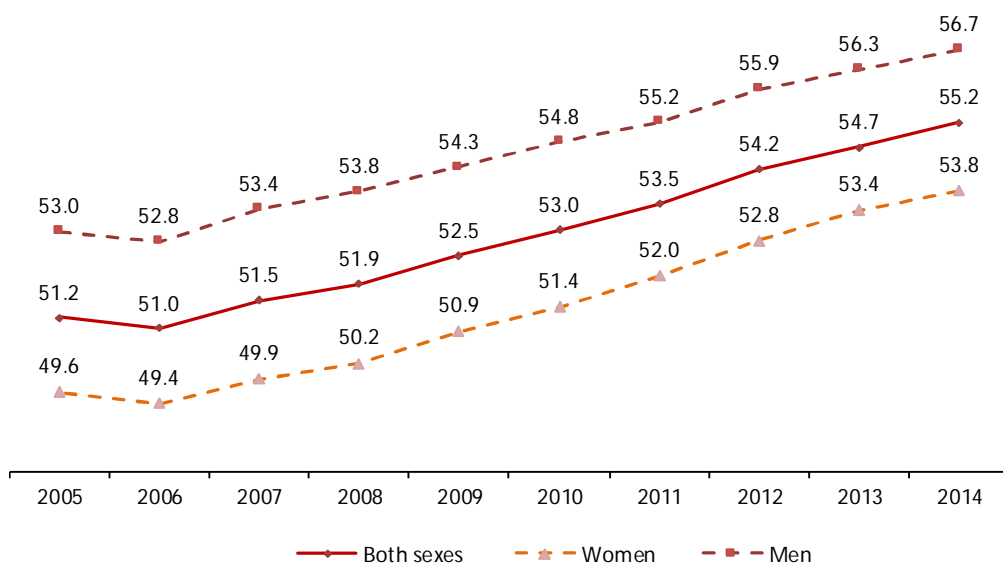


**Average age**

In 2014, the average age of admission to hospital stood at 55.2 years (as compared to 54.7 years in 2013). Since 2006, the average age of patients has increased year-by-year, reaching a total increase of more than four years.

The average age on admission stood at 56.7 years for men (56.3 in 2013) and at 53.8 for women (53.4 in 2013). If we were to exclude admissions due to *pregnancy, delivery and puerperium*, the average age of women would rise to 59.1 years (59.2 in 2013).

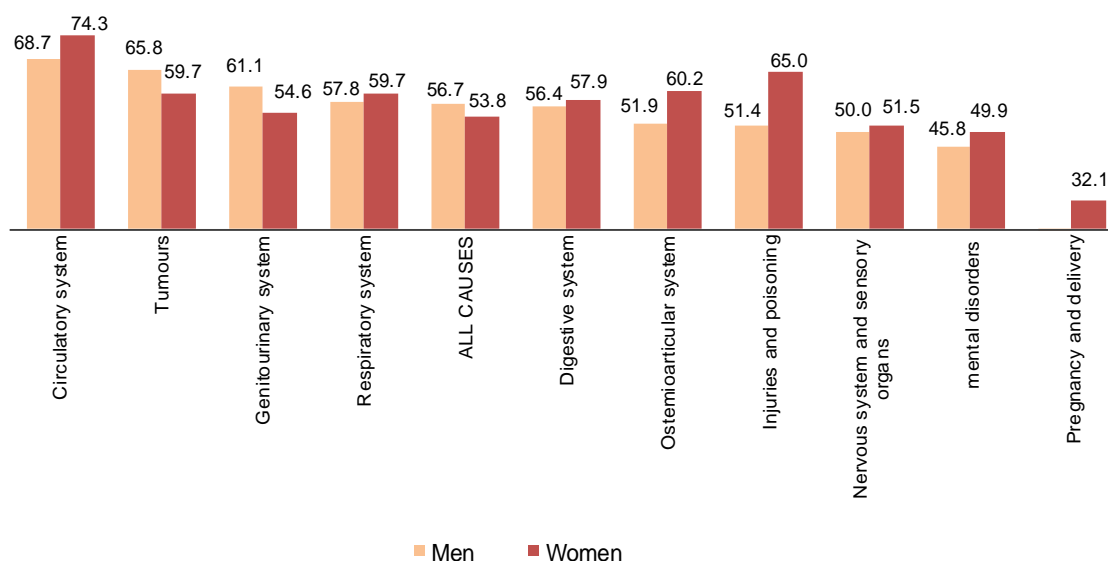
**Evolution of the average age of patients by year of admission and sex**



By group of diagnosis, persons admitted for *diseases of the circulatory system* had the greatest average age, both for men and women (68.7 and 74.3 years on average, respectively).

They were followed by people admitted for *tumours* in the case of men (65.8 years) and for *injuries and poisoning* in the case of women (65.0 years).

### Average age of patients by most frequent diagnosis groups and sex Year 2014



### Hospital stays

Total hospital stays (that is, the total number of days patients stayed at the hospital in 2014) reached 31.2 millions, 1.3% higher as compared to 2013.

Public hospitals registered an increase of 0.4% in stays, and private hospitals did so at 4.1%. 74.7% of the total number of stays was registered in public hospitals.

The groups of diseases that caused more hospital stays were *diseases of the circulatory system* (15.1% of the total stays), *tumours* (11.6%) and *diseases of the respiratory system* (11.5%).

Worth noting was the great number of hospital stays due to *mental disorders* (9.7% of the total) as compared with the low number of discharges with said diagnose (2.5%). This was due to the long period of stay of persons with this diagnose.

On the contrary, *pregnancy, delivery and puerperium*, despite being the fourth diagnose in terms of frequency among the discharges in 2014, had the ninth post in terms of total hospital stays.

### Average stay

In 2014, the average stay by hospital discharge was 6.61 days, which was 0.5% lower as compared with 6.64 in the previous year.

By diagnose group, the longest average stays (excluding *mental disorders*) corresponded to *tumours* (7.94 days), *injuries and poisoning* (7.53 days) and *diseases of the circulatory system* (7.52 days).

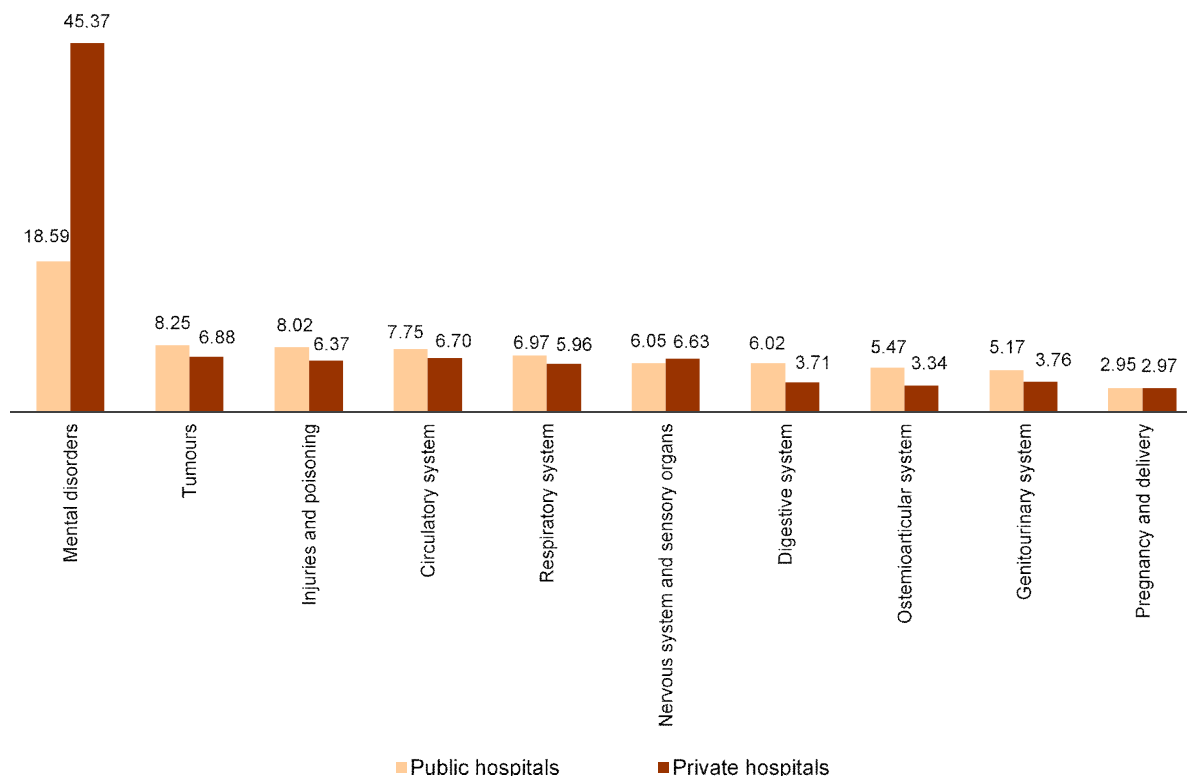
### Admissions, stays and average stays by large groups of diseases (% over the total). Year 2014

	Total stays	% total stays	Admissions	% total Admissions	Average stay (days)
<b>TOTAL ADMISSIONS</b>	31.183.147	100,0	4.719.667	100,0	6,61
Circulatory system	4.693.893	15,1	623.921	13,2	7,52
Tumours	3.602.078	11,6	453.632	9,6	7,94
Respiratory system	3.570.873	11,5	530.726	11,2	6,73
Injuries and poisoning	3.147.860	10,1	418.002	8,9	7,53
Digestive system	3.091.660	9,9	576.156	12,2	5,37
Mental disorders	3.031.658	9,7	117.965	2,5	25,70
Pregnancy and delivery	1.544.706	5,0	349.298	7,4	4,42
Circulatory system	1.466.942	4,7	311.156	6,6	4,71
Tumours	1.456.711	4,7	492.723	10,4	2,96
Nervous system and sensory organs	895.265	2,9	143.961	3,1	6,22

The average stay in public hospitals was 6.85 days (6.92 in 2013) and that of private hospitals was 5.98 days (5.89 in 2013).

In all disease groups the average stay of the patient was longer in public hospitals than in private hospitals, except in the groups of *mental disorders* (18.59 days in public hospitals and 45.37 in private hospitals), *diseases of the nervous system* (6.05 as compared to 6.63 days) and *pregnancies and deliveries* (2.95 as compared with 2.97).

**Average stay (in days) by type of hospital and most frequent diagnosis groups.**  
Year 2014



**Reasons for urgent discharge and admission**

In 2014, 61.2% of discharges were due to emergency admissions<sup>2</sup>, as compared to 61.0% registered in 2013.

With regard to the reason for discharge, 91.9% of the total resulted from recovery or improvement, 4.2% due to transfer to other centres or other causes, and the remaining 4.0% due to death.

In total, 186,717 persons died in Spanish hospitals, 1.1% more than in 2013. The main causes of death were *tumours* (24.2% of the total), *diseases of the circulatory system* (21.3%) and *diseases of the respiratory system* (18.2%).

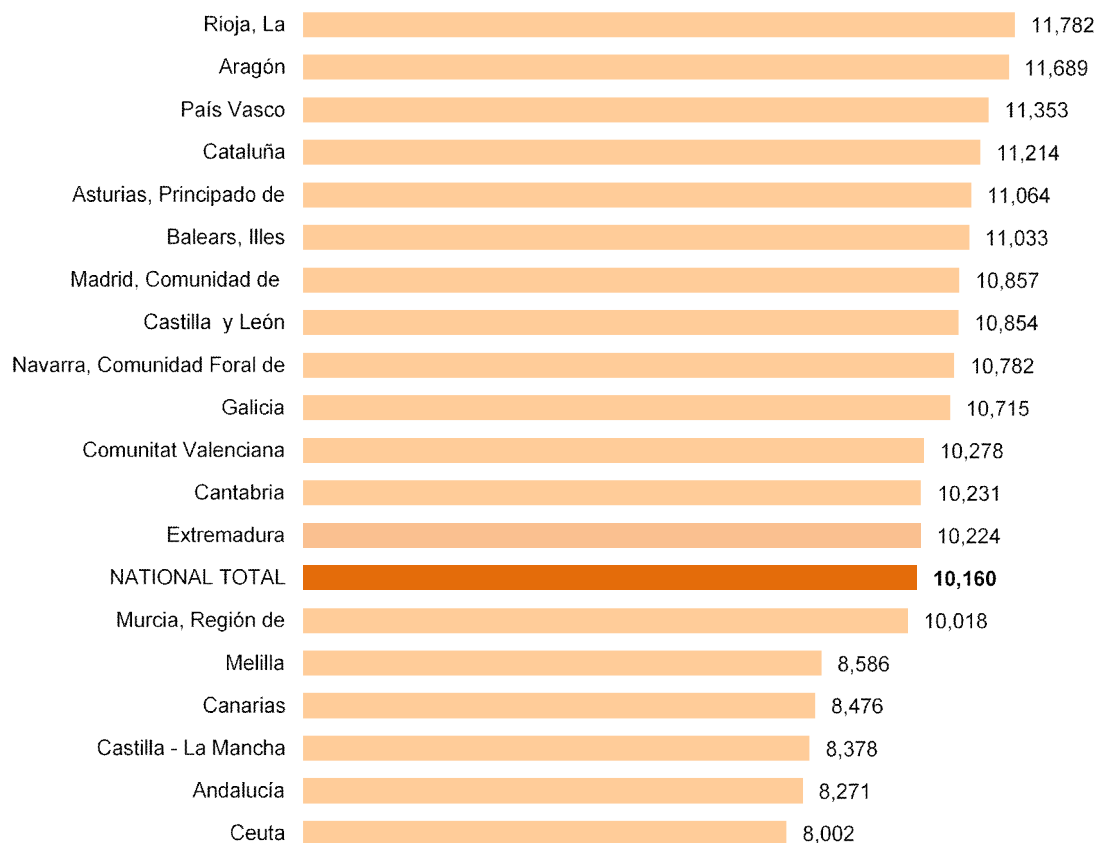
**Hospitalisations by Autonomous City and Community**

The highest rates of morbidity (number of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants) were recorded in La Rioja, Aragón and País Vasco.

In turn, Ceuta, Andalucía and Castilla-La Mancha registered the lowest number of discharges per 100,000 inhabitants.

<sup>2</sup> Patients considered were those who were ordered urgent admission by a doctor, regardless of whether they came from the emergency area or not.

**Admissions per 100,000 inhabitants by Autonomous Community of admission. Year 2014**



By groups of diseases, *pregnancy, delivery and puerperium* caused the highest rate of discharges in Andalucía, Región de Murcia and the Autonomous Cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

In Comunidad de Madrid and Comunidad Foral de Navarra, first place in admissions went to the group *diseases of the digestive system*. In Illes Balears, first place in admissions went to *diseases of the respiratory system*.

In turn, *diseases of the circulatory system* occupied the first place in the remaining Autonomous Communities.

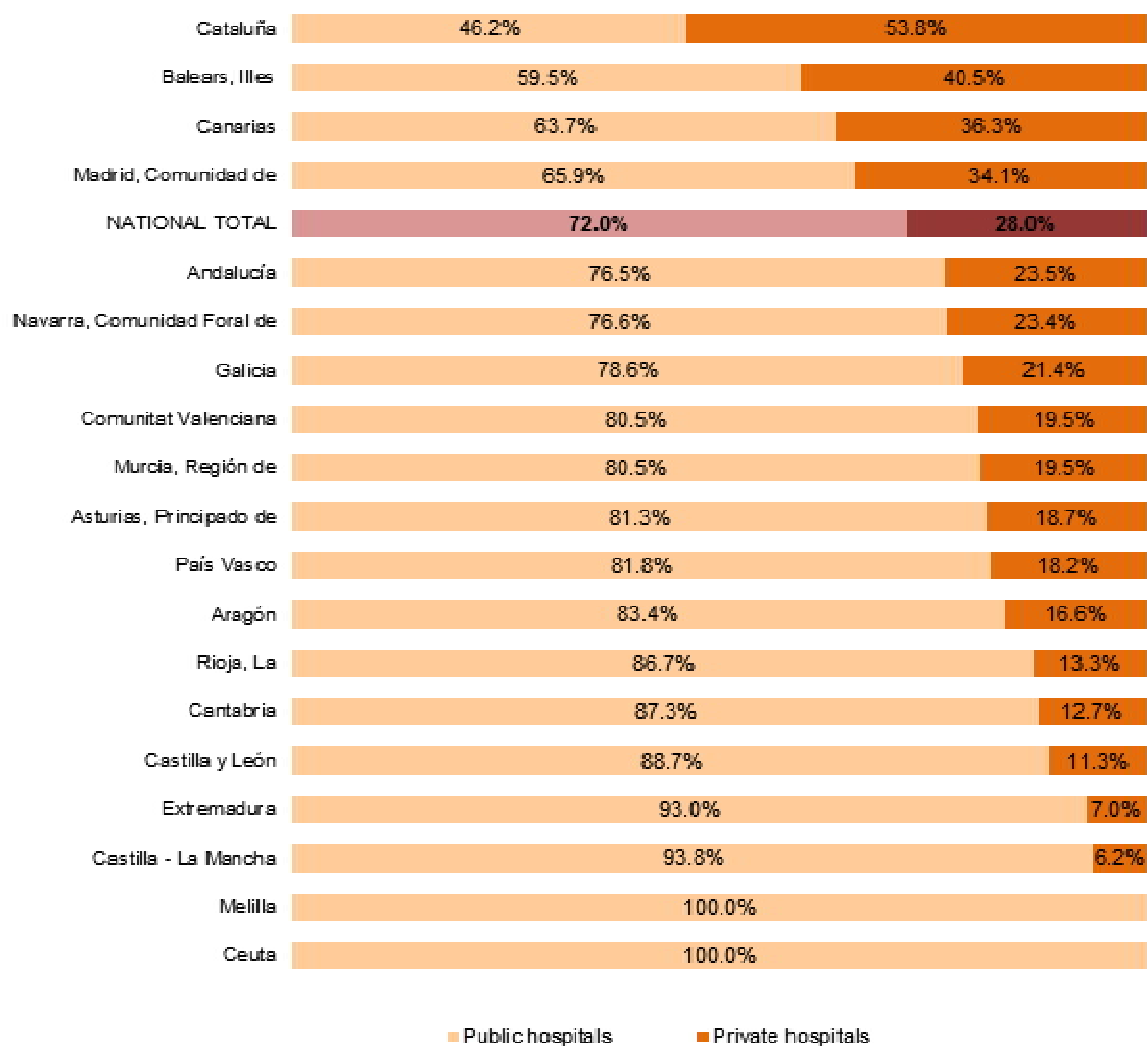
**Admissions by Autonomous Community and type of hospital**

The Autonomous Communities with the greatest weight in number of admissions to private hospitals as compared to the public network were Cataluña (53.8% of admissions were to private hospitals), Illes Balears (40.5%) and Canarias (36.3%).

In contrast, the Autonomous Communities with the least presence of discharges in the private network were Castilla-La Mancha (6.2% of admissions to private hospitals), Extremadura (7.0%) and Castilla y León (11.3%).



**Distribution of discharges by Autonomous Community of admission and type of hospital. Year 2014**



## Methodological note

The Hospital Morbidity Survey (HMS) offers information regarding hospital admissions with stays, and the average stay thereof, by virtue of the main diagnosis associated with the admission. **Hospital discharge is considered to be the procedure by which a patient admitted to a Health Centre or Establishment ceases to occupy a bed, due to cure, improvement, death, transfer or voluntary discharge.**

The main objective of the Hospital Morbidity Survey is to ascertain the demographic-health features of the patients discharged who have been admitted to a hospital, and have stayed there at least one night, as well as to provide information on a provincial and state level on the rate of visits and use of hospital resources throughout a reference year.

In 2014 the Survey collected information from 95.4% of Spanish hospitals, both public and private. Information was collected from 99.2% of the total hospital admissions that take place annually.

Health information focuses on the main diagnosis stated in the discharge report received by the patient, and which caused his/her admission according to the criteria of the clinical department or doctor who treated the patient. The features collected from the patient are as follows: sex, age, date admitted, date discharged, province of residence, type of admission and reason for discharge.

The Survey allows for determining the average stay for each type of diagnosis, ascertaining the scope of influence of hospitals according to the province of residence of the patient, and performing epidemiological studies of certain diseases. Since 2011, broken-down information has been published for discharges and hospital stays by public and private hospitals.

Since 2005, we have had microdata with a breakdown level of four digits in the main diagnosis, in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-9-MC). As of that same year, the publication includes the International Shortlist of Diagnosis Groups agreed upon by Eurostat, OECD and the WHO for the dissemination of Hospital Morbidity data.