Hospital Morbidity Survey  
Year 2018

The number of hospital discharges increased by 0.8% in 2018

The hospital morbidity rate stood at 10,486 discharges per 100,000 inhabitants.

Respiratory system diseases were the main cause of hospitalization (13.0% of the total)

In 2018, there were 4,899,954 hospital discharges, 0.8% more than in 2017. By sex, discharges increased 1.3% in the case of men and 0.3% in women. If the episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium are excluded, the increase in the case of women was 1.5%.

More than half of hospital discharges corresponded to women (52.1%). However, if pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium are excluded, this percentage would be 47.5%.

By age group, the highest number of discharges corresponded to the range of 65 to 84 years (33.4% of the total) followed by 45 to 64 years (23.7%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hospital discharges by age group and sex. Year 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DISCHARGES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 0 to 4 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 5 to 24 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 25 to 44 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 45 to 64 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 65 to 84 years old</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years and older</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most common reason for a patient’s discharge was either cure or improvement (91.6% of the total). 3.9% of the discharges were due to deaths and the rest to transfers to other centers or other causes.
Discharges increased by 1.3% in public hospitals and decreased by 0.6% in private hospitals. 72.9% of discharges corresponded to public hospitals¹.

62.5% of hospital discharges for the year were admitted as a matter of urgency².

With regard to the morbidity rate, in 2018 there were 10,486 discharges per 100,000 inhabitants, which was an increase of 0.4% over the previous year.

**Hospital discharges 2009-2018 Series.**
Rates per 100,000 inhabitants

![Graph showing hospital discharges from 2009 to 2018](image)

The male morbidity rate increased by 0.9% and stood at 10,253 discharges per 100,000 men. That of women fell by 0.2, to 10,710 discharges per 100,000 women. However, if discharges due to episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium are excluded, the female rate grew by 1.0% and stood at 8,923 discharges per 100,000 women.

By age group, the morbidity rate increased after five years of age, both for the total number of people and for men. In women, it increases from that age onwards, with the exception of the 45 to 64 age group.

¹The public or private nature is determined by the body or legal entity on which the hospital depends (functional dependency), that is, the natural or legal person who exercises dominion or jurisdiction, hierarchical or functional, most immediately over the health establishment. The classification of functional dependency of hospitals with legal forms of management contemplated in Law 15/1997 of 25 April, on the authorisation of new forms of management in the National Health System, and in accordance with regional legislative developments, has been assigned to the corresponding Health Services of each Autonomous Community.

²Patients with an urgent admission order from a physician are considered, regardless of whether or not they come from the emergency room.
Hospital discharges by age group and sex. Year 2018

Rates per 100,000 inhabitants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DISCHARGES</td>
<td>10,486</td>
<td>10,253</td>
<td>10,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 0 to 4 years old</td>
<td>11,028</td>
<td>12,142</td>
<td>9,846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 5 to 24 years old</td>
<td>3,422</td>
<td>3,112</td>
<td>3,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 25 to 44 years old</td>
<td>7,325</td>
<td>4,253</td>
<td>10,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 45 to 64 years old</td>
<td>8,659</td>
<td>9,671</td>
<td>7,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From 65 to 84 years old</td>
<td>21,762</td>
<td>26,610</td>
<td>17,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85 years and older</td>
<td>41,120</td>
<td>48,823</td>
<td>37,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Main diagnoses for hospital discharges

Respiratory system diseases (13.0% of the total) were the main diagnosis for discharges occurring in 2018. This was followed by circulatory system diseases (12.5%) and digestive diseases (12.5%).

Discharges by disease groups, according to the ICD-10 CM classification. Year 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease Group</th>
<th>Number of discharges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DISCHARGES</td>
<td>4,899,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the respiratory system</td>
<td>635,134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the circulatory system</td>
<td>612,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the digestive system</td>
<td>610,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumours</td>
<td>462,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes</td>
<td>442,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium</td>
<td>425,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue</td>
<td>358,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the genitourinary system</td>
<td>350,331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Symptoms, signs and abnormal findings</td>
<td>193,319</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the nervous system</td>
<td>121,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental and behavioural disorders</td>
<td>118,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certain infectious and parasitic diseases</td>
<td>114,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factors influencing health status</td>
<td>114,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases</td>
<td>88,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions originating in the perinatal period</td>
<td>60,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue</td>
<td>55,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs</td>
<td>42,969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congenital abnormalities</td>
<td>36,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the eye and adnexa</td>
<td>25,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the ear and mastoid process</td>
<td>22,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharges without diagnosis</td>
<td>8,563</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main causes of hospitalization in public hospitals were respiratory and circulatory diseases (each accounted for 13.8% of the total) and those of the digestive system (12.3%).

On the other hand, the main reasons for hospitalization in private hospitals were digestive system diseases (12.8% of the total), those of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue (12.6%) and respiratory diseases (10.6%).

Discharges by groups of most frequent diagnoses and type of hospital. Year 2018

Absolute values

By diagnoses groups, the highest morbidity rates for men were diseases of the circulatory system (1,524 per 100,000 men) and those of the circulatory system (1,521).

In the case of women, the highest rates were for the episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium (1,787 per 100,000 women) and respiratory diseases (1,201).
Diagnoses by groups of most frequent diagnoses and sex. Year 2018
Rates per 100,000 inhabitants

In 2018, a total of 191,486 people died in Spanish hospitals, 2.1% more than in the previous year. The main causes of death were tumours (21.7% of the total), circulatory system diseases (20.2%) and respiratory diseases (20.0%).

Average age of patients
The average age of people discharged in 2018 was 57.0 years, which was an increase of 0.7% over the previous year.

The average age of men was 58.4 years old and that of women was 55.8 years old. If discharges due to pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium were excluded, the average age in women would be 60.4 years.

By diagnosis group, circulatory diseases had the highest average age, both for men (average age of 69.4 years) and women (75.6 years).

Next were, in the case of men, tumours (66.4 years) and diseases of the genitourinary system (62.5 years). And, in the case of women, injuries, poisonings and other consequences of external causes (65.6 years) and respiratory diseases (62.9 years).

Hospital stays
Total stays (i.e., the total number of days of hospitalization for patients discharged in 2018) reached 40.6 million, 11.6% more than in 2017.

Of the total, 68.4% corresponded to the public network.

The diagnostic groups that caused the most hospital stays were mental and behavioural disorders (16.4% of the total), circulatory system diseases (13.4%) and respiratory diseases (11.3%).
The high percentage of hospital stays due to **mental and behavioural disorders** compared to the small number of discharges with this diagnosis (2.4%) is due to the longer period of hospitalization in patients with this pathology.

On the other hand, the **episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium** were the sixth group of diagnoses with the most discharges in 2018, and the tenth in total hospital stays.

**Total stays by most frequent diagnostic groups. Discharges 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2016 Absolute values (in number of days) and percentages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total stays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DISCHARGES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental and behavioural disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the circulatory system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the respiratory system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the digestive system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the genitourinary system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the nervous system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average stay per hospital discharge was 8.3 days (7.8 days in public hospitals and 9.6 days in private hospitals).

For more frequent diagnostic groups, the longer average stays corresponded to **mental and behavioural disorders** (56.4 days), **diseases of the nervous system** (11.2 days) and **circulatory system diseases** (8.9 days).

**Average stays by groups of most frequent diseases and type of hospital. Discharges 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average stays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL DISCHARGES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental and behavioural disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the nervous system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the circulatory system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tumours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the respiratory system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the digestive system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases of the genitourinary system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Hospital discharges by Autonomous Communities and Cities

The communities with the highest hospital discharge rates per 100,000 inhabitants in 2018 were Catalonia (12,222), Aragón (11,813) and Illes Balears (11,545).

On the other hand, the autonomous city of Ceuta (7,196), Andalucía (8,403) and Castilla - La Mancha (8,569) presented the lowest rates.

#### Hospital discharges by autonomous communities and cities of hospitalization. Year 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autonomous Community</th>
<th>Rate per 100,000 inhabitants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cataluña</td>
<td>12,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aragón</td>
<td>11,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balears, Illes</td>
<td>11,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asturias, Principado de</td>
<td>11,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>País Vasco</td>
<td>11,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rioja, La</td>
<td>11,267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galicia</td>
<td>11,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castilla y León</td>
<td>11,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madrid, Comunidad de</td>
<td>11,027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navarra, Comunidad Foral de</td>
<td>10,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremadura</td>
<td>10,518</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murcia, Región de</td>
<td>10,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL NACIONAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,486</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comunitat Valenciana</td>
<td>10,360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantabria</td>
<td>10,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canarias</td>
<td>8,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melilla</td>
<td>8,690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castilla - La Mancha</td>
<td>8,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andalucía</td>
<td>8,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceuta</td>
<td>7,196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By type of hospital, the highest percentages of discharges corresponding to public hospitals were in Castilla - La Mancha (92.6%), Extremadura (91.6%) and Castilla y León (89.0%), in addition to the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, where the entirety of discharges were in public centers.

On the contrary, the communities with the highest percentage of hospital discharges in the private network were Cataluña (47.0%), Illes Balears (37.8%) and the Canarias (34.6%).

**Discharges by Autonomous Communities and Cities of hospitalization and type of hospital. Year 2018**
Absolute values and percentages, as compared with the total for each community.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total discharges</th>
<th>Public Hospitals (%)</th>
<th>Private Hospitals (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>4,899,954</td>
<td>72.9</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cataluña</td>
<td>918,609</td>
<td>53.0</td>
<td>47.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comunidad de Madrid</td>
<td>726,318</td>
<td>66.9</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andalucía</td>
<td>706,398</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comunitat Valenciana</td>
<td>512,640</td>
<td>81.0</td>
<td>19.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galicia</td>
<td>302,264</td>
<td>79.5</td>
<td>20.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castilla y León</td>
<td>269,081</td>
<td>89.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>País Vasco</td>
<td>248,580</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canarias</td>
<td>190,412</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>34.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castilla - La Mancha</td>
<td>173,978</td>
<td>92.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aragón</td>
<td>155,424</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Región de Murcia</td>
<td>155,320</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illes Balears</td>
<td>135,737</td>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principado de Asturias</td>
<td>117,220</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extremadura</td>
<td>112,226</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comunidad Foral de Navarra</td>
<td>68,230</td>
<td>76.6</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cantabria</td>
<td>58,820</td>
<td>86.9</td>
<td>13.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La Rioja</td>
<td>35,229</td>
<td>87.9</td>
<td>12.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melilla</td>
<td>7,354</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceuta</td>
<td>6,113</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Methodological note

The Hospital Morbidity Survey (HMS) provides information on hospital discharges with hospitalisation based on the main diagnosis associated with the discharge. Hospital discharge is considered to be the procedure by which a patient admitted to a Health Centre or Establishment ceases to occupy a hospital bed, whether due to cure, improvement, death, transfer or voluntary discharge.

The main objective of the HMS is to know the demographic and health characteristics of patients who have been admitted to a hospital and have stayed at least one night, as well as to have information at the national, Autonomous Community and province level on the frequency and use of hospital resources in the reference year.

The health information focuses on the main diagnosis contained in the hospital discharge report received by the patient and which has led to his or her admission according to the criteria of the clinical service or physician who attended the patient. The characteristics that are collected from the patient are the following: sex, age, date of admission, date of discharge, province of residence, type of income and reason for discharge.

In 2016, a classification change was carried out in general and specialized hospitals, public and private, and the results of the survey were published according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10-MC) (in prior years ICD-9-MC was used).

In 2017, this new classification (ICD-10-MC) applies to medium and long-stay hospitals and mental health and drug addiction treatment, and in 2018 an update of the ICD has been carried out for some codes. This may result in the diagnostic data not always being strictly comparable to that of previous years.

**Type of operation**: average continuous survey.

**Population scope**: hospital discharges occurring in the national territory.

**Geographical scope**: the entire national territory.

**Reference period for the results**: the calendar year.

**Reference period for the information**: date on which hospital discharge occurs.

**Collection method**: Transcript of administrative document.

For more information you can access the methodology at:


And the standardised methodological report at: