

27 February 2020

**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%).

Hospital discharges by age group and sex. Year 2018

	Total	Men	Women
TOTAL DISCHARGES	4,899,954	2,349,175	2,550,779
From 0 to 4 years old	229,515	130,097	99,419
From 5 to 24 years old	322,566	171,675	171,915
From 25 to 44 years old	938,357	664,591	685,866
From 45 to 64 years old	1,160,023	517,226	506,342
From 65 to 84 years old	1,638,768	732,650	729,636
85 years and older	610,725	365,218	347,971

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.

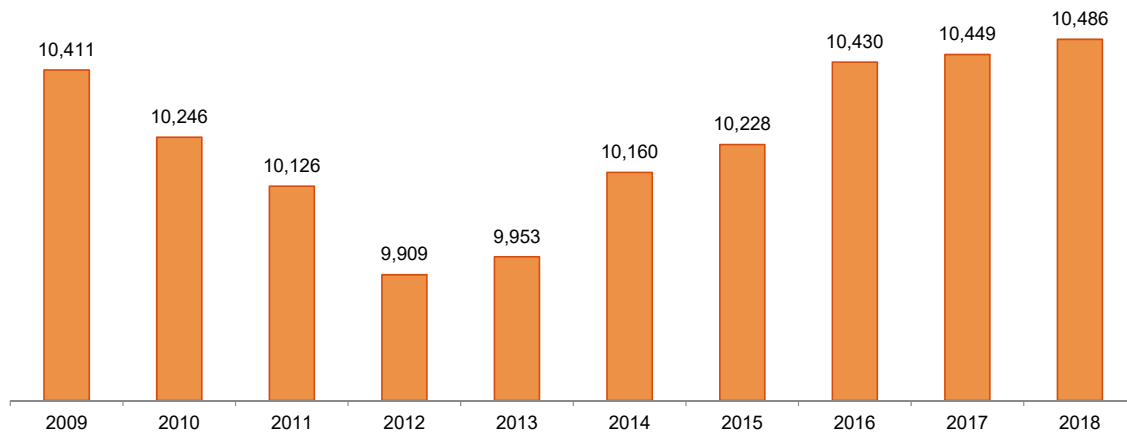
Discharges increased by 1.3% in public hospitals and decreased by 0.6% in private hospitals. 72.9% of discharges corresponded to public hospitals¹.

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



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.

¹ The 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

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

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

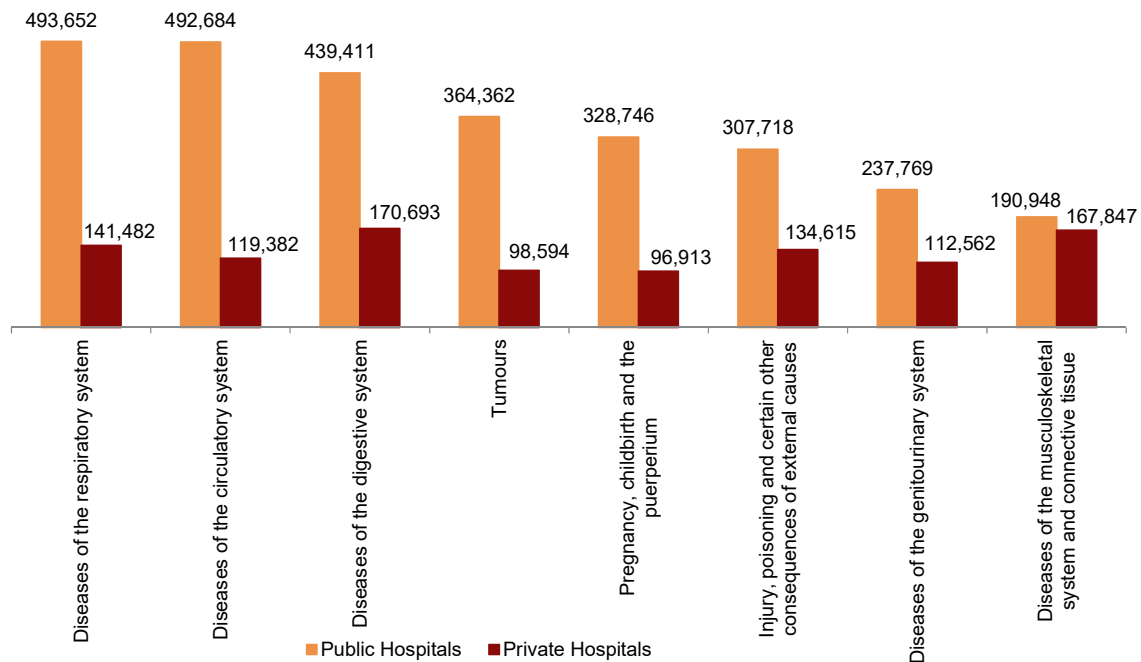
	Number of discharges
TOTAL DISCHARGES	4,899,954
Diseases of the respiratory system	635,134
Diseases of the circulatory system	612,066
Diseases of the digestive system	610,104
Tumours	462,956
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	442,333
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	425,658
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	358,795
Diseases of the genitourinary system	350,331
Symptoms, signs and abnormal findings	193,319
Diseases of the nervous system	121,224
Mental and behavioural disorders	118,095
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	114,629
Factors influencing health status	114,512
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	88,014
Conditions originating in the perinatal period	60,853
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	55,792
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	42,969
Congenital abnormalities	36,357
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	25,563
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	22,688
Discharges without diagnosis	8,563

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

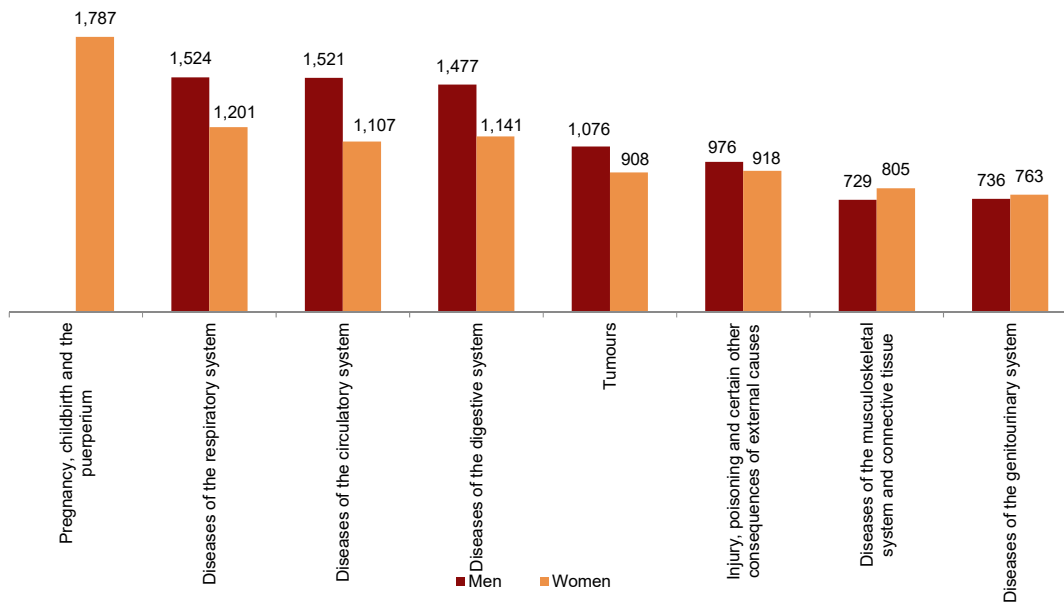


By diagnoses groups, the highest morbidity rates for men were *diseases of the circulatory system* (1,524 per 100,000 men) and those of the *circulatory system* (1,521).

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

Year 2016 Absolute values (in number of days) and percentages

	Total stays	% of total stays
TOTAL DISCHARGES	40,563,057	100.0
Mental and behavioural disorders	6,660,667	16.4
Diseases of the circulatory system	5,444,507	13.4
Diseases of the respiratory system	4,578,978	11.3
Tumours	3,795,304	9.4
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	3,755,156	9.3
Diseases of the digestive system	3,409,302	8.4
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	1,872,925	4.6
Diseases of the genitourinary system	1,803,976	4.4
Diseases of the nervous system	1,357,336	3.3
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	1,310,998	3.2

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

Number of days

	Average stays	Public hospitals	Private hospitals
TOTAL DISCHARGES	8.3	7.8	9.6
Mental and behavioural disorders	56.4	37.2	104.7
Diseases of the nervous system	11.2	9.5	14.9
Diseases of the circulatory system	8.9	8.5	10.5
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	8.5	8.4	8.7
Tumours	8.2	8.2	8.0
Diseases of the respiratory system	7.2	7.3	7.1
Diseases of the digestive system	5.6	6.2	4.0
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	5.2	6.0	4.3
Diseases of the genitourinary system	5.2	5.4	4.6
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	3.1	3.1	3.0

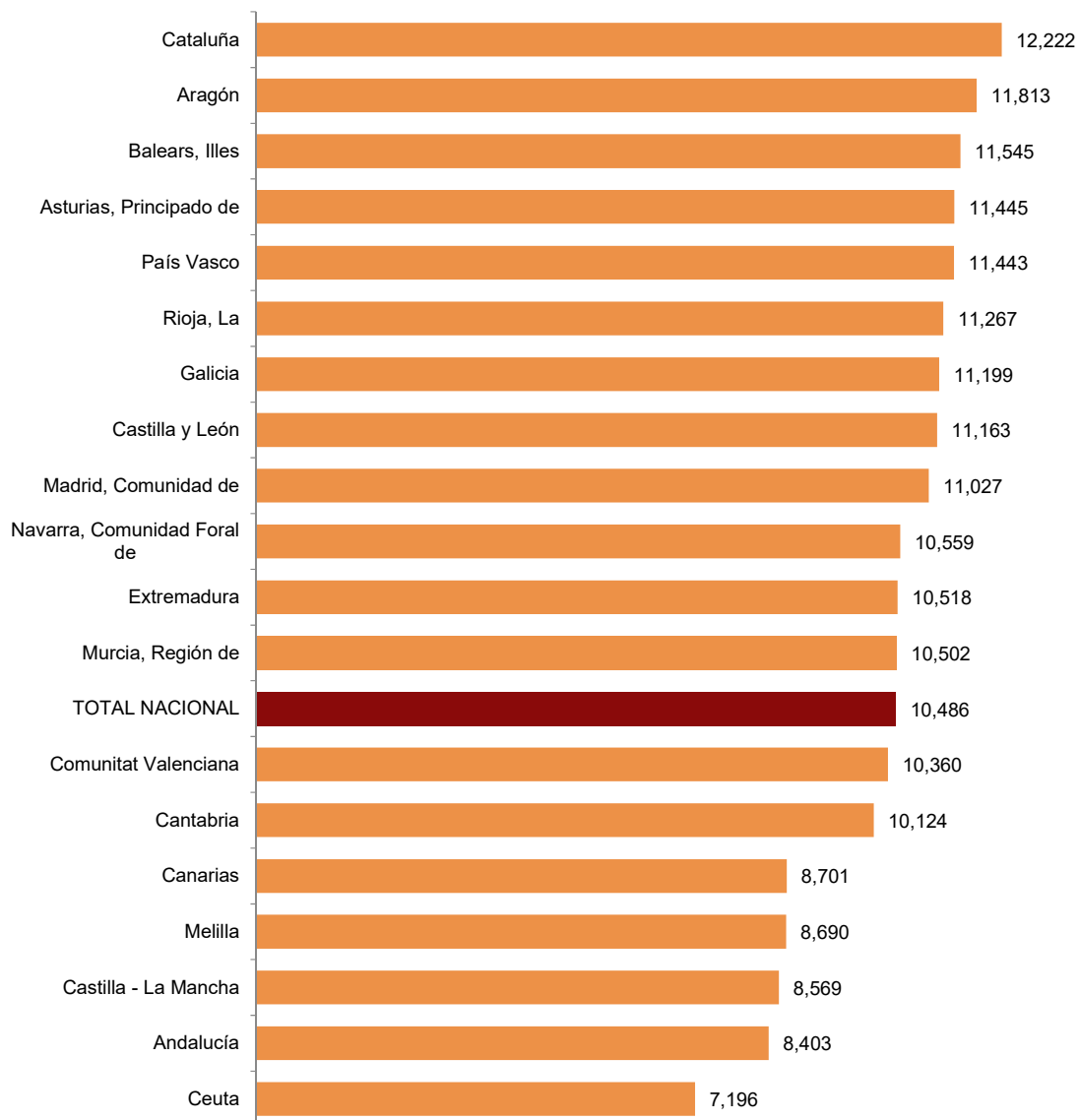
Hospital discharges by Autonomous Communities and Cities

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

Rate per 100,000 inhabitants



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.

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

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:

<https://www.ine.es/daco/daco42/sanitarias/notaemh16.pdf>

And the standardised methodological report at:

<https://www.ine.es/dynt3/metadatos/es/RespuestaDatos.html?oe=30414>

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