Hospital Morbidity Survey
Year 2021

The number of hospital discharges increased by 6.1% in 2021

The main causes of hospitalisation were diseases of the respiratory system (12.9% of the total), diseases of the digestive system (12.3%) and tumours (9.7%).

In 2021, there were 4,513,640 hospital discharges, 6.1% more than in 2020. By sex, discharges increased 6.1% in the case of men and 6.2% in women. If the *episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium* are excluded, the increase in the case of women was 7.8%.

More than half of hospital discharges corresponded to women (51.7%). However, if pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium are excluded, this percentage would be 47.3%.

By age group, the highest number of discharges corresponded to the range of 65 to 84 years (33.2% of the total) followed by 45 to 64 years (25.0%).

Hospital discharges by age group and sex. Year 2021
Absolute values and percentages

	Total	Men	Women	Total (%)	Men (%)	Women (%)
TOTAL DISCHARGES	4,513,640	2,180,552	2,333,089	100.0	100.0	100.0
From 0 to 4 years old	174,536	98,435	76,101	3.9	4.5	3.3
From 5 to 24 years old	284,081	132,074	152,007	6.3	6.1	6.5
From 25 to 44 years old	829,525	239,419	590,106	18.4	11.0	25.3
From 45 to 64 years old	1,126,910	629,484	497,426	25.0	28.9	21.3
From 65 to 84 years old	1,499,689	837,675	662,013	33.2	38.4	28.4
85 years and older	598,900	243,464	355,435	13.3	11.2	15.2

The most common reason for a patient's discharge was either cure or improvement (88.1% of the total). 4.9% of the discharges were due to deaths and the rest to transfers to other centres or other causes.

Discharges increased by 5.9% in public hospitals and by 6.8% in private hospitals. 72.4% of discharges corresponded to public hospitals[1].
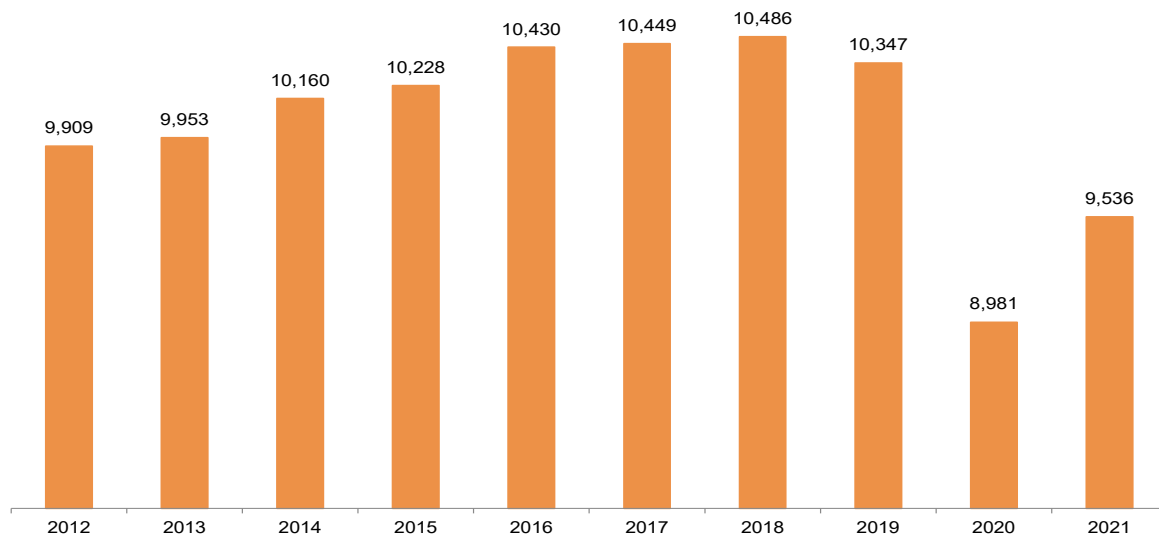
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[1] The public or private nature is determined by the body or legal entity on which the hospital depends (functional dependency), that is, the natural or legal person who exercises dominion or jurisdiction, hierarchical or functional, most immediately 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.

64.1% of hospital discharges for the year were admitted as a matter of urgency[2].

With regard to the hospital morbidity rate, in 2021 there were 9,536 discharges per 100,000 inhabitants, which was an increase of 6.2% over the previous year.

Hospital discharges 2012-2021 Series.
Rates per 100,000 inhabitants

The male hospital morbidity rate increased by 6.1% and stood at 9,402 discharges per 100,000 men. That of women rose by 6.2%, to 9,665 discharges per 100,000 women. However, if discharges due to episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium are excluded, the female rate rose by 7.8% and stood at 8,120 discharges per 100,000 women.

The hospital morbidity rate increased with age from five years onwards, both for the total number of people and in the case of men. In the case of women, if discharges due to *cases of pregnancy*, *childbirth and puerperium* are excluded, the rate also increased after five years.

Hospital discharges by age group and sex. Year 2021
Rates per 100,000 inhabitants

	Total	Men	Women
TOTAL DISCHARGES	9,536	9,402	9,665
From 0 to 4 years old	9,312	10,214	8,356
From 5 to 24 years old	2,941	2,652	3,250
From 25 to 44 years old	6,810	3,921	9,713
From 45 to 64 years old	7,950	8,953	6,963
From 65 to 84 years old	19,114	23,508	15,458
85 years and older	37,510	44,574	33,837

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[2]Patients with an urgent admission order from a physician are considered, regardless of whether or not they come from the emergency room.

Main diagnoses for hospital discharges

Circulatory system diseases (12.9% of the total) were the main diagnosis for discharges occuring in 2021. This was followed by *diseases of the digestive system* (12.3%) and *tumours* (9.7%).

If we analyze the number of discharges for the main diagnoses compared to the year 2020, *diseases of the circulatory system* increased by 11.2%, *diseases of the digestive system* by 11.9% and *tumours* by 7.1%.

Discharges by disease groups, according to the ICD-10 CM classification. Year 2021
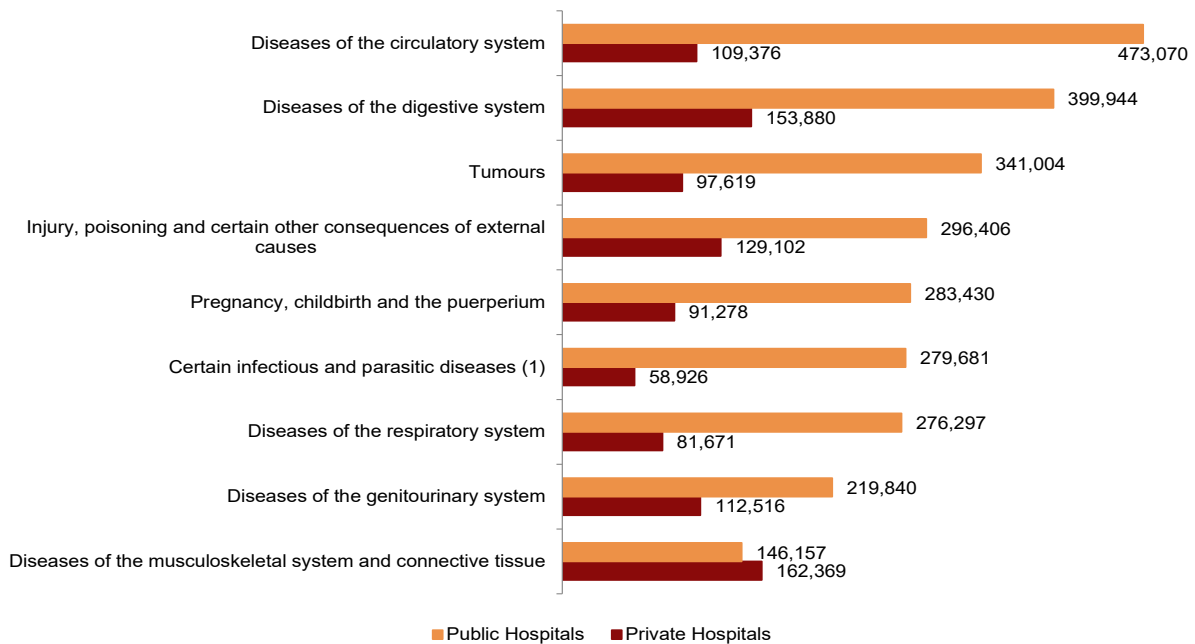Number of discharges and percentage

	Total diagnostics	%
	4,513,640	100.0
Diseases of the circulatory system	582,446	12.9
Diseases of the digestive system	553,824	12.3
Tumours	438,623	9.7
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	425,508	9.4
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	374,708	8.3
Diseases of the respiratory system	357,967	7.9
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases[1]	338,607	7.5
Diseases of the genitourinary system	332,356	7.4
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	308,526	6.8
Symptoms, signs and abnormal findings	163,972	3.6
Mental and behavioural disorders	113,815	2.5
Factors influencing health status	108,929	2.4
Diseases of the nervous system	107,862	2.4
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	88,735	2.0
Conditions originating in the perinatal period	56,477	1.3
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	45,411	1.0
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	41,684	0.9
Congenital abnormailities	30,610	0.7
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	17,629	0.4
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	16,843	0.4
Discharges without diagnosis	9,109	0.2

[1] *COVID-19* infection is included in the group of Certain infectious and parasitic diseases

The main causes of hospitalisation in public hospitals were *circulatory diseases* (14.5% of the total), diseases of the *digestive system* (12.2%) and *tumours* (10.4%) .

Meanwhile, the main reasons for hospitalization in private hospitals were *diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue* (13.1% of the total), those of the *digestive system* (12.4%) and *injuries, poisonings and other consequences from external causes* (10.4%).

Discharges by groups of most frequent diagnoses and type of hospital. Year 2021
Absolute Values

	Public Hospitals	Private Hospitals
Diseases of the circulatory system	473,070	109,376
Diseases of the digestive system	399,944	153,880
Tumours	341,004	97,619
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	296,406	129,102
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	283,430	91,278
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (1)	279,681	58,926
Diseases of the respiratory system	276,297	81,671
Diseases of the genitourinary system	219,840	112,516
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	146,157	162,369

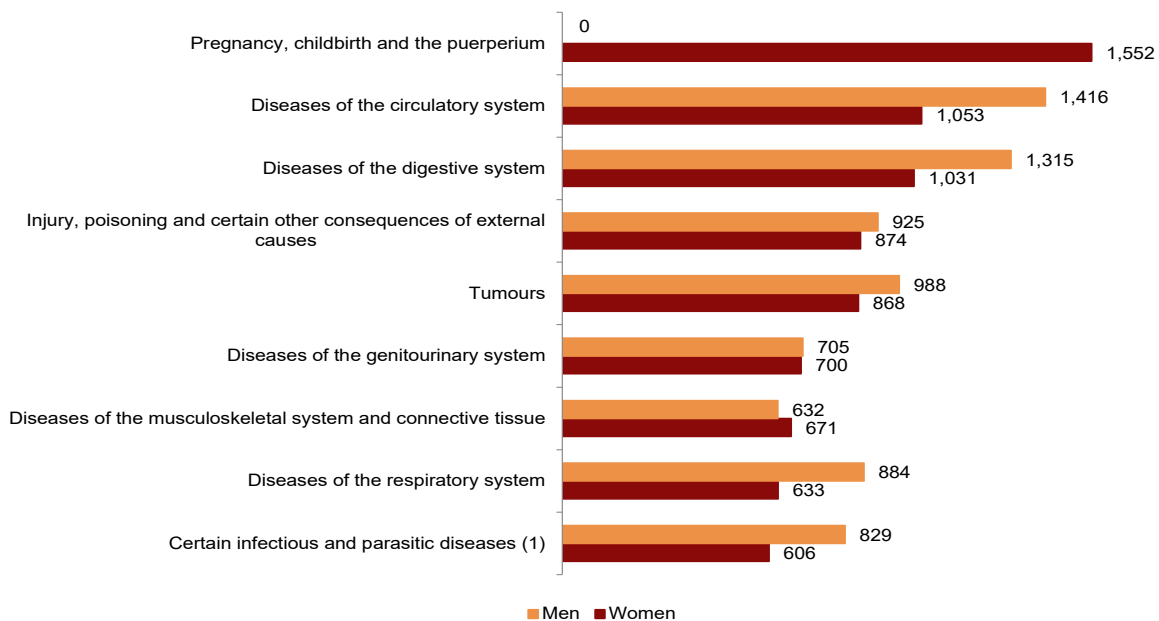■ Public Hospitals ■ Private Hospitals

(1) Covid-19 infection is included in the group of infectious and parasitic diseases

By diagnoses groups, the highest morbidity rates for men were *diseases of the circulatory system* (1,416 per 100,000 men) and those of the *digestive system* (1,315).

In the case of women, the highest rates were for the *episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium* (1,552 per 100,000 women) and *circulatory diseases* (1,053).

Diagnoses by groups of most frequent diagnoses and sex. Year 2021
Rates per 100,000 inhabitants

	Men	Women
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	0	1,552
Diseases of the circulatory system	1,416	1,053
Diseases of the digestive system	1,315	1,031
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	925	874
Tumours	988	868
Diseases of the genitourinary system	705	700
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	632	671
Diseases of the respiratory system	884	633
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases (1)	829	606

■ Men ■ Women

(1) Covid-19 infection is included in the group of infectious and parasitic diseases

In the year 2021, a total of 222,653 people died in Spanish hospitals, 0.8% less than in 2020.

The main diagnoses of hospital deaths were *infectious and parasitic diseases, including COVID-19 infection* (20.9% of the total), *diseases of the circulatory system* (18.8%) and *tumours* (17.1%).

Average age of patients

The average age of people discharged in 2021 was 58.0   years, which was a decrease of one tenth over the previous year.

The average age of men was 59.5 years old and that of women was 56.6 years old. If discharges due to *pregnancy, childbirth and puerperium* were excluded, the average age in women would be 61.1 years.

By diagnosis group, circulatory diseases had the highest average age, both for men (average age of 70.0 years) and women (76.4 years).

Tumours (66.9 years) and *diseases of the genitourinary system* (64.2 years) were then placed in the case of men. And *infectious and parasitic diseases* (66.1 years) and *diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs* (65.5 years) in women.

Hospital stays

Total stays (i.e., the total number of days of hospitalization for patients discharged in 2021) reached 37.6 million, 1.2% more than in 2020.

Of the total, 69.2% corresponded to the public network.

The diagnostic groups that caused the most hospital stays were *mental and behavioural disorders* (16.1% of the total), *circulatory system diseases* (13.2%) and *infectious and parasitic diseases* (10.4%).

The high percentage of hospital stays due to *mental and behavioural disorders* compared to the small number of discharges with this diagnosis (2.5%) is due to the longer period of hospitalization in patients with this pathology.

For their part, *episodes of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium* were the tenth group of diagnoses in total hospital stays, although they were the fifth with the most discharges in 2021.

Total stays by most frequent diagnostic groups. Year 2021
Year 2016 Absolute values (in number of days) and percentages

	Total stays	% of total stays
TOTAL DIAGNOSTICS	37,567,211	100.0
Mental and behavioural disorders	6,046,258	16.1
Diseases of the circulatory system	4,976,907	13.2
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases[1]	3,916,011	10.4
Tumours	3,351,265	8.9
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	3,266,323	8.7
Diseases of the digestive system	3,131,760	8.3
Diseases of the respiratory system	2,581,195	6.9
Diseases of the genitourinary system	1,674,096	4.5
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	1,463,834	3.9
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	1,107,134	2.9

[1] *COVID-19* infection is included in the group of Certain infectious and parasitic diseases

The average stay per hospital discharge was 8.3 days (7.9 days in public hospitals and 9.3 days in private hospitals).

For more frequent diagnostic groups, the longer average stays corresponded to *mental and behavioural disorders* (53.1 days), *infectious and parasitic diseases* (11.6 days) and *circulatory system diseases* (8.5 days) .

Average stays by groups of most frequent diseases and type of hospital. Year 2021
Average number of days

	Average stays	Public hospitals	Private hospitals
TOTAL DIAGNOSTICS	8.3	7.9	9.3
Mental and behavioural disorders	53.1	34.2	105.4
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases[1]	11.6	11.5	11.8
Diseases of the circulatory system	8.5	8.2	9.9
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	7.7	7.8	7.3
Tumours	7.6	7.8	6.9
Diseases of the respiratory system	7.2	7.3	7.1
Diseases of the digestive system	5.7	6.3	3.9
Diseases of the genitourinary system	5.0	5.5	4.1
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	4.7	5.8	3.8
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	3.0	3.0	2.9

[1] *COVID-19* infection is included in the group of Certain infectious and parasitic diseases

COVID-19 infection

In 2021, there were 241,307 hospital discharges of persons diagnosed *with COVID-19 infection*.[3]

By sex, the number of hospital discharges following a *COVID-19 infection* was higher in men (139,048 men, compared to 102,259 women).

The hospital morbidity rate for this disease was 510 per 100,000 inhabitants (600 in men and 424 in women).

A total of 37.2% of discharges following a *COVID-19 infection* correspond to the age group of 65 to 84 years, 32.5% to the group of 45 to 64 years, 15.3% to people aged 85 and over and 15.1% to those under 45 years of age. The average age of people discharged following a diagnosis of this infection was 64.3 years.

A total of 82.0% of these discharges were from public hospitals. The most common reason for discharge of patients was cure or improvement (77.5% of the total); 12.5% of the discharges were due to death and the rest to transfers to other centres or other causes.

Total hospital stays caused by *COVID-19 infection* amounted to 2.9 million, while the average stay of patients was 11.9 days.

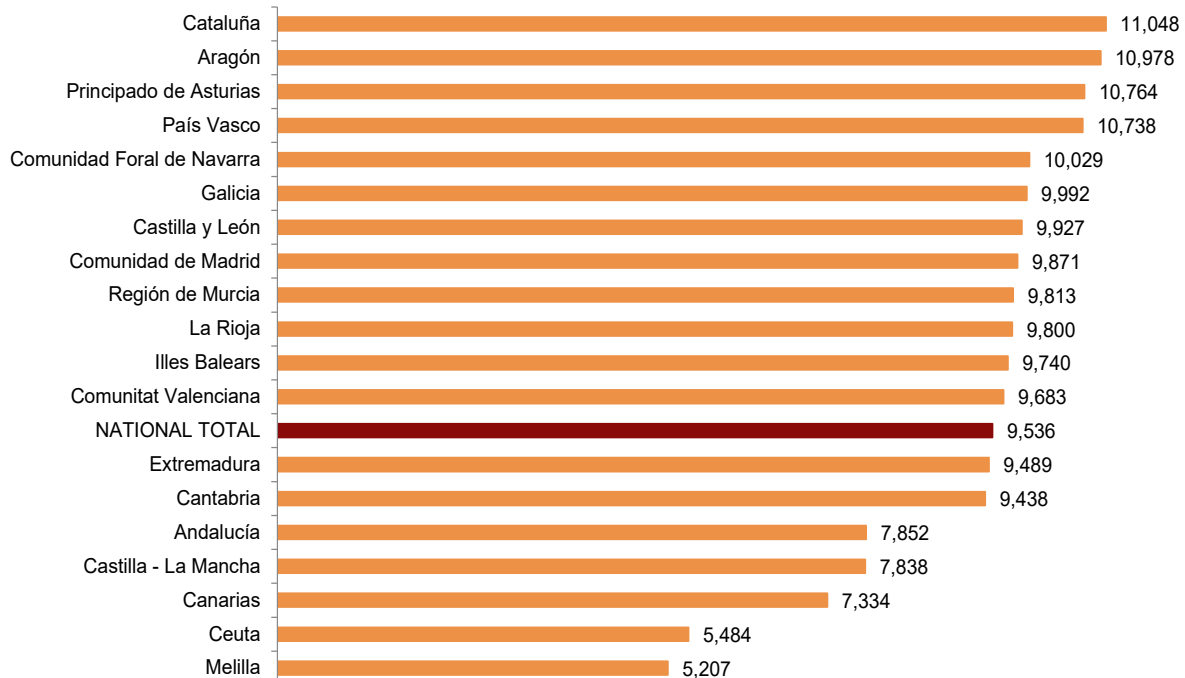## Hospital discharges by Autonomous Communities and Cities

The communities with the highest hospital discharge rates per 100,000 inhabitants in 2021 were Cataluña (11,048), Aragón (10,978) and Principado de Asturias (10,764).

On the other hand, the autonomous cities of Melilla (5,207) and Ceuta (5,484) and Canarias (7,334) presented the lowest rates.

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[3] When comparing the information on hospital morbidity for covid-19 infection and respiratory diseases with the previous year, we should note that the in February 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) established an emergency code in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) for the coding of covid-19 infections. This code was implemented in the ICD-10-CM (the classification used in the coding of diagnoses in hospitalized patients), on an exceptional basis, as of April 1, 2020 by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention of the National Centre for Health Statistics (CDC/NCHS). Given the health crisis taking place at the time in Spain, it was decided not to implement the new code until there was a decrease in pressure on health systems, so that information systems could better adjust to the change. Finally, the new code U07.1 for COVID-19 infection was implemented by hospitals starting in July 2020.

Hospital discharges by autonomous communities and cities of hospitalization. Year 2021
Rate per 100,000 inhabitants

Community	Rate
Cataluña	11,048
Aragón	10,978
Principado de Asturias	10,764
País Vasco	10,738
Comunidad Foral de Navarra	10,029
Galicia	9,992
Castilla y León	9,927
Comunidad de Madrid	9,871
Región de Murcia	9,813
La Rioja	9,800
Illes Balears	9,740
Comunitat Valenciana	9,683
NATIONAL TOTAL	9,536
Extremadura	9,489
Cantabria	9,438
Andalucía	7,852
Castilla - La Mancha	7,838
Canarias	7,334
Ceuta	5,484
Melilla	5,207

By hospital type, highest percentages of discharges in public hospitals were in Castilla - La Mancha (92.0%), Extremadura (91.5%) and La Rioja (89.4%), as well as in the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, where all discharges were in public hospitals.

On the contrary, the communities with the highest percentage of hospital discharges in the private network were Cataluña (48.5%), Illes Balears (35.9%) and Comunidad de Madrid (34.6%).

Looking at the main diagnosis groups, the highest hospital morbidity rates for circulatory diseases were in Principado de Asturias (1,780 per 100,000 inhabitants), Castilla y León (1,452) and Galicia (1,447).

Diseases of the digestive system presented the highest rates in Aragón (1,391), Castilla y León (1,387) and País Vasco (1,338).

For its part, Comunidad Foral de Navarra registered the highest rate of hospital morbidity due to *tumours* (1,177), followed by Aragón (1,111) and Galicia (1,072).

Hospitalisation discharges by autonomous communities and cities and main groups of diagnoses. Year 2021
Rates per 100,000 inhabitants and percentage variation

	Rate per 100,000 inhabitants			Variation 2021/2020		
	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the digestive system	Tumours	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the digestive system	Tumours
NATIONAL TOTAL	1,231	1,170	927	11.2	12.0	7.2
Andalucía	1,020	1,001	797	8.7	12.2	6.8
Aragón	1,386	1,391	1,111	18.8	20.3	10.3
Principado de Asturias	1,780	1,270	992	12.9	10.9	2.9
Illes Balears	1,061	1,176	760	10.5	11.8	4.7
Canarias	942	903	685	2.6	5.0	-0.4
Cantabria	1,426	1,086	934	16.6	8.6	5.1
Castilla y León	1,452	1,387	1,057	15.0	14.5	8.9
Castilla - La Mancha	1,089	1,043	711	20.9	11.8	8.9
Cataluña	1,419	1,246	976	12.3	11.0	6.1
Comunitat Valenciana	1,187	1,175	973	8.3	9.9	6.9
Extremadura	1,331	1,264	957	11.1	17.7	7.9
Galicia	1,447	1,312	1,072	11.3	10.3	8.2
Comunidad de Madrid	1,139	1,153	990	11.4	14.8	10.5
Región de Murcia	1,203	1,223	909	11.5	19.2	8.5
Comunidad Foral de Navarra	1,099	1,297	1,177	8.7	13.2	5.4
País Vasco	1,424	1,338	1,008	10.7	7.2	6.6
La Rioja	1,399	1,295	924	8.4	7.0	6.6
Ceuta	640	549	363	8.8	11.4	-7.6
Melilla	537	638	238	-3.2	1.1	2.6

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 since that date the results of the survey are published according to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10-MC) (in prior years ICD-9-MC was used). In 2020, some codes of said classification were updated and a new emergency code was introduced for the coding of COVID-19 infections, which was implemented by hospitals as of July.

Type of operation: annual 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: transcription of administrative documents.

For more information the methodology can be accessed at:

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

The standardized methodological report is at:

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

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