

27 December 2010

Hospital Morbidity Survey Year 2009

The number of inpatient admissions to hospital in Spain decreases 0.7% in 2009

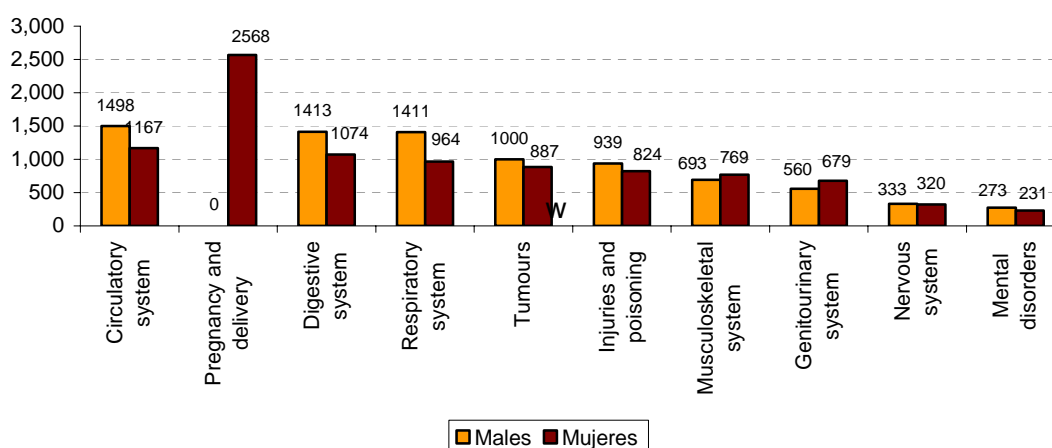
Diseases of the circulatory system and pregnancy and delivery result in the highest number of admissions

During the year 2009, there occurred 4,781,867 inpatient hospital admissions, representing a 0.7% decrease as compared with the previous year. This was the first interannual decrease of this type of admission since the year 2001.

The rate of admission per 100,000 inhabitants stood at 10,411, that is, 1.4% less than in 2008. This was fundamentally due to the decrease in pregnancy and delivery, and to the gradual increase in outpatient surgery without overnight stays in hospitals.

Hospitalisations due to diseases registered the highest number of admissions (12.8 per 100 admissions). They were followed by pregnancy, delivery and puerperium¹ (12.5), which had been the main cause of hospitalisation in the 2004-2008 period. The following causes of hospitalisation were the group of diseases of the digestive system (11.9%), diseases of the respiratory system (11.4%) and tumours (9.1).

**Discharges per 100,000 inhabitants by most frequent diagnosis groups
and sex. Year 2009**



¹ Within this group we included the diagnoses that lead to delivery in any of its modalities (normal delivery, caesarean, premature delivery, etc.) and others, such as hypertension or haemorrhages that complicated pregnancy, delivery or puerperium (the period from the convalescence of childbirth to the complete normality of the genital organs)

Worth noting was the increase in diseases of the respiratory system in its participation in total hospital admissions, as a result of the **16.6% increase in diagnoses of pneumonia and flu** as compared with 2008 (13.9% in men and 20.7% in women).

Among females, the number one cause of hospitalisation corresponded to pregnancy, delivery and puerperium, with 23.3% of the total, as compared with the 24.5% registered in the year 2008. The growing participation of this group in the total hospital admissions broke with the rising trend of previous years, in accordance with the evolution of the number of births in Spain, which decreased 5.2% in 2009.

The following causes of hospitalisation in women corresponded to the group of diseases of the circulatory system (10.6%), diseases of the digestive system (9.7%), diseases of the respiratory system (8.7%), tumours (8.0%) and injuries and poisoning (7.5%).

Among men, the diseases that caused the highest number of hospitalisations were those of the circulatory system, with 15.3% of the total. Next were the diseases of the digestive system (14.4%), diseases of the respiratory system (14.4%), tumours (10.2%) and injuries and poisoning (9.6%).

Women accounted for 53.6% of the total admissions. If we were to exclude admissions due to pregnancy, delivery and puerperium, the higher percentage of participation would correspond to males (53.0%), and the three large groups of diseases leading to the highest number of hospital admissions would coincide for both sexes.

Evolution of admissions by large groups of diseases (% over the total hospital admissions). Years 1990-2009.

	Year 1990	Year 1995	Year 2000	Year 2005	Year 2009
Pregnancy and delivery	13.7	11.2	11.4	12.9	12.5
Circulatory system	8.2	10.4	12.3	12.8	12.8
Digestive system	10.2	11.0	11.5	11.8	11.9
Respiratory system	7.4	8.3	9.6	10.6	11.4
Tumours	7.1	7.6	7.9	8.5	9.1
Injuries and poisoning	7.8	7.4	8.0	8.3	8.5

Hospitalisations by age and by large groups of diseases

The average age on admission to hospital stood at 52.4 years (54.3 years in men and 50.9 in women), as compared with 51.9 years registered in the year 2008. If we were to exclude admissions due to pregnancy, delivery and puerperium, the average age of women would rise to 56.9 years.

Persons aged 85 years old and over represented 7.7% of total hospital admissions in 2009, four tenths more than the previous year. The relative participation of this age group in the total hospitalisations has grown gradually in recent years, from 5.2% in the year 2000.

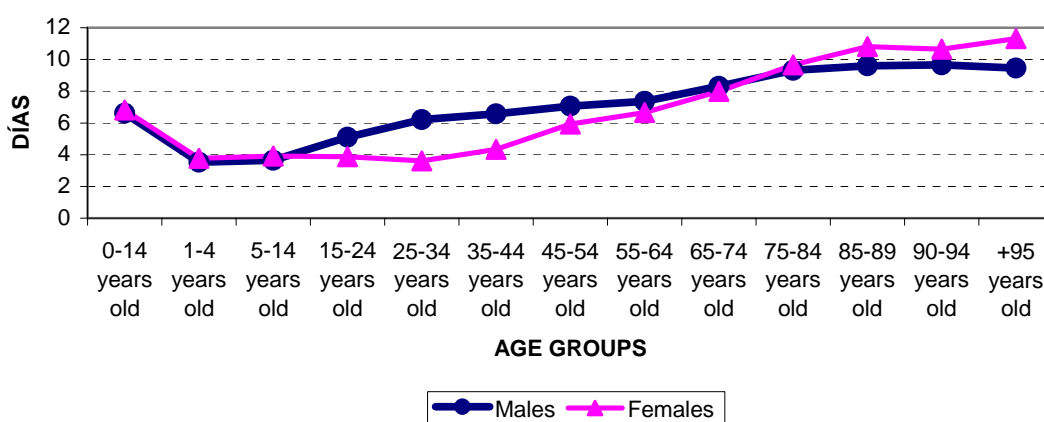
Likewise, worth noting was the increase, over the last two decades, in the percentage of participation of the oldest age groups (65-74, 75-84, 85 years old and over) over the total hospital admissions. These three age groups represented 39.2% of the total hospitalisations in 2009, as compared with 35.9% in the year 2000 and 24.8% in 1990.

Hospital stays by sex, age and large groups of diseases

The **average stay per hospital admission was 6.90 days**, as compared with 6.96 in 2008 and 7.21 in 2007. By groups of diseases, long stays (not taking into consideration mental illnesses) corresponded to diseases originating in the perinatal period (9.09 days) and to tumours (9.02 days).

By age, the longest average stay corresponded to the group of persons aged over 95 years old (10.79 days), followed by the group aged 90-94 years old (10.32 days) and the group aged 85-89 years old (10.31 days).

Average stay by age and sex. Year 2009



Reasons for discharge and admissions via Accident and Emergency

The number of hospital admissions for persons admitted via Accident and Emergency represented 59.6% of total admissions in 2009, a similar percentage to that of previous years.

92.3% of the discharges were produced as a result of cure or improvement, 3.9% from death, 1.9% due to transfer to other centres and 1.9% due to other causes.

The **main causes of death in Spanish hospitals** were tumours (24.5% of the total), diseases of the circulatory system (22.0%), of the respiratory system (18.7%) and of the digestive system (8.8%).

Hospitalisations by Autonomous Community

The highest numbers of hospital admissions per 100,000 inhabitants were recorded in Comunidad Foral de Navarra, Illes Balears and Principado de Asturias.

In turn, Andalucía and Canarias and the autonomous city of Melilla presented the lowest number of admissions per 100,000 inhabitants.

By **groups of diseases**, pregnancy, delivery and puerperium caused the highest rate of hospital admissions in Andalucía, Canarias, Castilla-La Mancha, Comunitat Valenciana, Comunidad de Madrid, Región de Murcia and the autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla.

In Illes Balears the first place in admissions was occupied by the group of diseases of the respiratory system, whereas in Navarra it corresponded to diseases of the digestive system. In turn, diseases of the circulatory system occupied the first place in the nine remaining Communities.

Admissions per 100,000 inhabitants, by Autonomous Community of hospitalisation. Year 2009

AVERAGE	10.411		
Andalucía	8,769	Extremadura	10,306
Aragón	11,575	Galicia	10,712
Asturias Principado de	11,941	Madrid Comunidad de	10,660
Balears, Illes	12,304	Murcia Región de	9,953
Canarias	8,891	Navarra, Comunidad Foral de	12,357
Cantabria	10,096	País Vasco	11,481
Castilla y León	11,306	Rioja, La	10,602
CASTILLA - LA MANCHA	9,314	Ceuta	9,369
Cataluña	11,553	Melilla	9,066
Comunitat Valenciana	10,070		

The Autonomous Communities with the longest **average stay** were Cantabria (7.94 days), Galicia (7.92 days), Principado de Asturias (7.71 days) and Castilla y León (7.61 days).

In contrast, those with the shortest average stay were Illes Balears (5.70 days), Comunitat Valenciana (5.78 days) and the autonomous cities of Melilla (5.92 days) and Ceuta (6.35 days).

International Data: Shortlist for diagnosis groups for international dissemination (Eurostat/OECD/WHO) of Hospital Morbidity data

With the hospital admissions information corresponding to the year 2005, for the first time, the Shortlist for diagnosis groups for international dissemination of Hospital Morbidity data was published, agreed upon by the main international institutions in this area (Eurostat, OECD and WHO), and which allowed for a homogeneous comparison of the figures and diagnoses among countries in subsequent years.

Hospital admissions per 100,000 inhabitants for different countries and diagnosis groups ². Year 2008

Countries	All diagnoses	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	Diseases of the digestive system	Pregnancy and delivery ***
Germany	23,242	3,463	1,400	2,156	2,141
Canada **	8,426	1,104	680	892	2,571
Spain	10,559	1,315	1,132	1,254	2,749
United States *	13,009	1,997	1,170	1,177	3,066
France	26,441	2,132	1,197	3,119	3,883
Italy **	13,330	2,127	1,022	1,287	2,379
Mexico	5,768	234	254	533	5,188
Portugal	11,980	1,364	985	1,094	1,949
United Kingdom	13,592	1,310	1,201	1,187	3,087
Turkey	10,645	1,129	1,206	883	2,797

* Data corresponding to the year 2006 ** Data corresponding to the year 2007 *** Episodes per 100,000 women

Average stay in days, for different countries and diagnosis groups ². Year 2008

Countries	All diagnoses	Diseases of the circulatory system	Diseases of the respiratory system	Diseases of the digestive system	Pregnancy and delivery
Germany	9.8	10.2	8.7	7.2	4.7
Canada **	7.5	8.4	7.6	6.0	2.5
Spain	7.0	8.3	7.1	5.8	3.1
United States *	4.8	4.5	5.1	4.6	2.7
France	5.7	6.7	7.0	5.0	4.7
Italy **	6.8	7.7	8.0	6.9	4.1
Mexico	3.9	5.9	4.7	3.9	1.8
Portugal	5.4	7.3	7.9	5.7	3.4
United Kingdom	7.7	10.4	7.6	6.3	2.5
Turkey	4.3	4.5	4.8	4.0	2.1

** Data corresponding to the year 2006 ** Data corresponding to the year 2007

² Source: OECD (Further information available on the website: <http://www.oecd.org/els/health/data>). The complete list of diagnoses included in the Eurostat/OECD/WHO Shortlist is published in tables 3.1-3.4 and 4.1-4.4 of the Hospital Morbidity Survey 2005-2009.

Methodological note

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.

The Survey collects information by a sampling of 89.3% of both public and private Spanish hospitals in 2009, such that the number of patients collected directly from hospitals reaches 95.5% of total inpatient hospital admissions taking place annually in Spain.

Health information focuses on the main diagnosis stated in the hospital 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.

As of the year 2005, we have 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.