

# 2004 National Hospital Discharge Survey Summary

## Introduction

All of the following statistical information represents information collected directly from the 2004 National Hospital Discharge Survey. The following summary reflects trend information related to national estimates of inpatient non-Federal short-stay hospitals in the United States and does not include data regarding ambulatory procedures.

## Overview Highlights

- In 2004, there were an estimated 34.9 million hospital discharges, excluding newborn infants. **The average length of stay was 4.8 days for all inpatients and 5.6 days for the elderly.**
- The discharge rate was 1,192.3 per 10,000 population – 964.9 for males and 1,411.3 for females. This represents nearly 12% of the population. **Males had an average length of stay of 5.2 days compared with 4.5 for females.**
- The average length of stay for children under age 15 years was 4.5 days; for those 15-44 years it was 3.7 days; for those aged 45-64 years, it was 5.0 days; and for those aged 65 years and over, it was 5.6 days.
- In 2004, those aged 65 years and over comprised 12 percent of the U.S. population, made up 38 percent of all hospital discharges, and used 44 percent of the total days of care.
- During 2004, 45 million procedures were performed on hospital inpatients. Nationally, the rate of procedures was 1,539.7 per 10,000 population. For males, this rate was 1,231.6 and for females, it was 1,836.5 per 10,000 population.
- Overall, the average length of stay was 2.6 days for delivery, 4.6 days for heart disease, 5.5 days for pneumonia, 5.6 days for fractures, 6.6 days for malignant neoplasms, and 7.9 days for psychoses.
- Over 1 in 4 of all procedures performed on females were obstetrical and over 1 in 10 were cardiovascular.
- Twenty-three percent of all procedures performed on males were cardiovascular, 14 percent were digestive, and 11 percent were musculoskeletal.

All of the information provided in this summary report was compiled from information provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and The National Center for Health Statistics.