

6 Demographic profile for admitted patients

Introduction

This chapter presents a demographic profile of admitted patients who separated from hospital during 1998-99.

Data on the sex of each patient was reported to the National Hospital Morbidity Database as male, female, indeterminate or not stated/inadequately described. The nine separations for patients who were not reported as male or female are included in totals for persons in the tables in this chapter.

Most States and Territories supplied the date of birth of the patient for the database, in which case the Institute calculated the age of the patient by subtracting the date of birth from the date of admission. The exceptions were Victoria and Queensland, which supplied the age in years or days for each patient.

The data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status were supplied by most data providers, categorised as:

- Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
- Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
- not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
- not stated.

The additional category *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified* was created by the Institute (Table 6.7) to cater for definitional variations between jurisdictions, including the use of the superseded version of this data element. Victoria provided data for this category until 31 December 1998 and for the more specific categories from 1 January 1999.

All States and Territories supplied country of birth details coded to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics.

All the rates in this chapter were derived using 30 June population estimates for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups because 31 December (mid-year) estimates were not available for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and overseas-born populations; this includes age-standardised rates calculated for separations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons and non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons (Table 6.7) and by country of birth (Table 6.8). Thus, while standardised rates within this chapter can be directly compared, there will be small discrepancies between them and standardised rates reported in Chapter 4 and Chapter 5, which were based on 31 December 1998 estimates (see Appendix 8 for details).

Sex

There were more separations for females than males in the child-bearing age groups (15 to 44 years), and also in the 75 years and over age groups (Table 6.1). Females accounted for higher proportions of separations than males, 53% of total separations in public hospitals

(2,051,239) (Table 6.2) and 56% in private hospitals (1,043,365) (Table 6.3). Separations per 1,000 population were higher for females than males in age groups from 15 to 54 years for both hospital sectors; however, this was reversed in the age groups over 65 years and under 15 years (Figures 6.1 and 6.2).

Females also accounted for more patient days (12,140,153) than males (10,178,664) (Table 6.4). In public hospitals, they accounted for 53% (8,573,188) of patient days, and for more patient days than males in the age groups from 15 to 44 years and in the 75 years and over age groups (Table 6.5). In private hospitals, females accounted for 59% (3,566,965) of patient days, and for more patient days than males in the age groups from 15 to 74 years (Table 6.6). Similar patterns were evident in the number of patient days reported per 1,000 population in the child-bearing age groups (15 to 44 years) in both public and private hospitals (Figures 6.3 and 6.4).

Age

In public hospitals, separations peaked in two age groups. The first was in the 65 to 74 years age group, which was most commonly reported for male patients, and the second was in the 25 to 34 years age group, which was the age group most commonly reported for female patients (Table 6.2). The pattern of separations per 1,000 population peaked in two age groups, the under 1 year age group and the 65 years and over age groups (Figure 6.1). The highest number of patient days for females was reported in the 25 to 34 years age group and in the 65 years and over age groups, and for males in the age groups 65 years and over (Table 6.5). Average length of stay was highest for the under 1 year and the 75 years and over age groups (Figure 6.5).

In private hospitals, separations peaked in the 75 years and over age group, reflecting the most commonly reported age group for both male and female patients (Table 6.3). Patients in the 75 years and over age group accounted for the most patient days (Table 6.6), and had the highest number of separations per 1,000 population (Figure 6.2). As for public hospitals, the average length of stay was longest for the very young (under 1 year) and for the older patients (75 years and over) (Figure 6.6).

In both sectors combined the population in the age groups 65 years and over accounted for a high proportion of admitted patient activity. This population (2,281,748), which comprised 12% of the total Australian population, accounted for 1.8 million separations (32%) and 10.4 million patient days (46%). There were 796 separations per 1,000 population for this age group compared with an overall rate of 294.5 per 1,000 for the total population. The average length of stay for these patients was 5.7 days, compared with 3.9 days for all patients.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status

Table 6.7 presents the data reported on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status by hospital sector and State and Territory, including age-standardised separation rates. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients, the rates were calculated using the Australian Bureau of Statistics experimental projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for June 1998 (Appendix Table A4.2).

There were 159,296 separations for patients reported as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, mainly in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Overall, on an age-standardised basis, there were 562 separations for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients reported per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for Australia. This was markedly higher than the corresponding figure for the overall population of 296 per 1,000.

The Northern Territory reported the highest number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander separations per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population (887 per 1,000), even though its private hospital was not included. Western Australia and South Australia reported the next highest rates (816 and 691 per 1,000, respectively), ahead of Queensland and Victoria (597 and 361 per 1,000 population, respectively).

Figure 6.7 presents separation rates per 1,000 population by reported Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status and age group and sex. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status categories included as 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander' were *Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin*, *Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin*, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin*, and *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified*.

The rates for both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander males and females were higher than those for other patients in all age groups, and markedly so for patients aged over 34 years. The highest rates overall were recorded for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander females in the 55–64 years age group.

Quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status data

The variation in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander separations per 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population among the States and Territories suggests that there was variation in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons who were identified as such in the morbidity data collections and/or in the total population.

The quality of the data provided for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status in 1998–99, although better than previous years, is still in need of improvement, being considered acceptable for only the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia. Data on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status in this chapter should therefore be interpreted cautiously.

For 1998–99 the New South Wales Health Department reports that its data were in need of improvement. To address this, the Department issued Better Practice Guidelines to improve the level of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification and associated with their introduction has implemented a statewide training program.

The Victorian Department of Human Services reports that its 1998–99 data were in need of improvement. The *National Health Data Dictionary* question on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status is asked in all hospitals. Hospitals are encouraged to assess the quality of their data, but are not required to do so.

Queensland Health reports that its 1998–99 data were regarded as being in need of improvement. The Department is conducting a program of audits and is working to improve overall Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification in all mainstream administrative data collections.

The Health Department of Western Australia regards its 1998–99 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status data as being of acceptable quality. It is currently undertaking an assessment of the quality, with surveys in rural and metropolitan areas using the methodology developed in 1998 by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Information Unit of the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The South Australian Department of Human Services regards its 1998–99 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status data as being of acceptable quality. The Department conducts training courses in data collection every year and these reinforce the need to comply with *National Health Data Dictionary* standards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identification. There is a 30% loading for casemix payments for separations for Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander patients and this may act as an incentive for quality data to be collected.

The Tasmanian Department of Human Services reports that its 1998–99 data were in need of improvement. An outposted Australian Bureau of Statistics staff member is working with the Department to improve the data quality throughout the State. The number of patients not responding to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander questions is low.

The Australian Capital Territory Department of Health and Community Care considers that its 1998–99 data were in need of improvement; there is known under-reporting. There is no formal process for assessment of data quality in the Territory; however, a training program for staff is being planned.

The Northern Territory's Territory Health Services reports that the quality of its 1998–99 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status data is considered to be acceptable. Territory Health Services is working to develop data recording rules for situations in which individual patients report different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statuses at different encounters with Territory Health Services.

Country of birth

Australian-born patients accounted for 75% (4,277,392) of total separations, 74% in the public sector and 76% in the private sector (Table 6.8). There was some variation in the proportions of separations in the public and private sectors by country of birth. For Australian-born persons, 66.9% were in the public sector, as were 79.6% for persons born in Greece, 78.8% for persons born in the Middle East and North Africa, 51.9% for persons born in Japan and 53.1% for persons born in the United States of America.

The age-standardised separation rate for Australian-born patients was higher (305.4 per 1,000) than that for the overseas-born population (235.5 per 1,000).

Table 6.1: Separations by age group and sex, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	18,810	14,234	10,103	5,098	4,960	1,113	1,381	1,288	56,987
	1–4	25,631	14,952	15,167	7,790	6,978	1,378	1,110	1,237	74,243
	5–14	32,032	21,306	20,177	10,649	8,497	2,018	1,450	984	97,113
	15–24	92,156	67,664	60,064	31,056	26,061	6,881	3,501	4,551	291,934
	25–34	167,115	139,657	99,640	52,552	44,968	11,566	7,463	6,190	529,151
	35–44	127,192	106,780	77,002	41,406	34,229	9,137	5,505	4,744	405,995
	45–54	113,615	99,952	76,226	36,695	32,897	9,611	5,394	4,877	379,267
	55–64	110,014	93,542	69,260	32,530	29,763	7,643	5,003	3,669	351,424
	65–74	138,197	111,590	79,335	35,527	37,766	9,031	4,603	1,168	417,217
	75 and over	171,447	130,688	85,543	40,273	47,805	10,798	3,977	733	491,264
	Not reported	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
<i>Total</i>		<i>996,217</i>	<i>800,365</i>	<i>592,517</i>	<i>293,576</i>	<i>273,924</i>	<i>69,176</i>	<i>39,387</i>	<i>29,442</i>	<i>3,094,604</i>
Males	Under 1	26,768	20,930	13,739	7,416	7,084	1,526	1,611	1,610	80,684
	1–4	38,101	22,861	21,331	11,256	10,236	1,827	1,574	1,575	108,761
	5–14	45,431	28,401	26,948	13,489	11,336	2,601	1,878	1,333	131,417
	15–24	55,136	40,712	39,359	17,128	14,881	3,601	2,510	1,568	174,895
	25–34	67,919	54,826	45,547	25,554	19,829	5,142	3,374	3,094	225,285
	35–44	85,339	69,085	56,027	29,036	23,711	6,750	4,616	4,830	279,394
	45–54	108,063	84,495	71,103	34,157	30,900	7,652	5,278	4,879	346,527
	55–64	118,769	101,437	80,168	35,510	31,953	8,630	5,668	3,034	385,169
	65–74	156,142	133,284	92,448	41,142	42,521	10,966	5,852	2,648	485,003
	75 and over	142,118	109,397	80,805	36,295	40,226	9,785	3,738	855	423,219
	Not reported	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	3	8
<i>Total</i>		<i>843,786</i>	<i>665,433</i>	<i>527,475</i>	<i>250,983</i>	<i>232,677</i>	<i>58,480</i>	<i>36,099</i>	<i>25,429</i>	<i>2,640,362</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	45,583	35,181	23,842	12,515	12,044	2,639	2,994	2,898	137,696
	1–4	63,732	37,814	36,498	19,046	17,214	3,205	2,684	2,813	183,006
	5–14	77,463	49,707	47,125	24,138	19,833	4,619	3,328	2,317	228,530
	15–24	147,292	108,376	99,423	48,184	40,942	10,483	6,011	6,126	466,837
	25–34	235,036	194,483	145,187	78,107	64,797	16,709	10,837	9,288	754,444
	35–44	212,533	175,865	133,029	70,444	57,941	15,888	10,121	9,576	685,397
	45–54	221,679	184,448	147,329	70,852	63,797	17,275	10,672	9,756	725,808
	55–64	228,783	194,979	149,428	68,043	61,716	16,273	10,671	6,703	736,596
	65–74	294,339	244,874	171,783	76,669	80,288	20,008	10,455	3,816	902,232
	75 and over	313,565	240,085	166,348	76,568	88,032	20,585	7,715	1,588	914,486
	Not reported	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	17
Total separations		1,840,013	1,465,817	1,119,992	544,566	506,604	127,684	75,488	54,885	5,735,049

(a) Includes separations for which sex was not reported as male or female.

Table 6.2: Separations by age group and sex, public hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	16,873	11,976	8,648	3,792	4,576	872	771	1,288	48,796
	1–4	22,584	12,739	12,292	6,237	5,969	1,106	977	1,237	63,141
	5–14	25,965	16,505	15,718	7,955	6,902	1,374	1,170	984	76,573
	15–24	68,884	50,639	47,035	21,216	21,224	4,835	2,822	4,551	221,206
	25–34	117,467	98,158	67,905	33,880	34,997	7,230	5,583	6,190	371,410
	35–44	79,736	65,774	46,153	25,550	23,418	5,071	3,965	4,744	254,411
	45–54	66,026	56,323	42,353	20,851	18,988	5,334	3,939	4,877	218,691
	55–64	69,032	57,453	38,862	20,145	18,802	4,474	3,959	3,669	216,396
	65–74	92,954	69,392	44,116	23,428	24,726	5,363	3,735	1,168	264,882
	75 and over	122,154	80,897	46,174	26,814	29,768	6,249	2,943	733	315,732
	Not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Total</i>		<i>681,675</i>	<i>519,856</i>	<i>369,256</i>	<i>189,868</i>	<i>189,370</i>	<i>41,908</i>	<i>29,864</i>	<i>29,442</i>	<i>2,051,239</i>
Males	Under 1	23,729	17,442	11,390	5,555	6,519	1,144	968	1,610	68,357
	1–4	33,030	19,554	17,275	8,899	8,857	1,369	1,371	1,575	91,930
	5–14	38,429	23,064	21,619	10,373	9,443	1,836	1,631	1,333	107,728
	15–24	40,899	27,774	29,851	11,555	10,582	2,570	1,920	1,568	126,719
	25–34	49,185	39,083	34,883	18,531	14,808	3,691	2,863	3,094	166,138
	35–44	58,421	45,675	39,229	20,199	17,008	4,520	3,987	4,830	193,869
	45–54	68,139	52,640	43,474	21,193	19,628	4,344	4,206	4,879	218,503
	55–64	77,391	66,606	48,812	23,417	21,699	5,961	4,600	3,034	251,520
	65–74	106,618	90,382	55,070	27,421	29,461	7,223	4,582	2,648	323,405
	75 and over	95,874	68,063	37,854	20,551	28,485	5,923	2,606	855	260,211
	Not reported	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Total</i>		<i>591,715</i>	<i>450,288</i>	<i>339,457</i>	<i>167,694</i>	<i>166,490</i>	<i>38,581</i>	<i>28,734</i>	<i>25,429</i>	<i>1,808,388</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	40,607	29,423	20,038	9,348	11,095	2,016	1,739	2,898	117,164
	1–4	55,614	32,294	29,567	15,136	14,826	2,475	2,348	2,813	155,073
	5–14	64,394	39,569	37,337	18,328	16,345	3,210	2,801	2,317	184,301
	15–24	109,783	78,413	76,886	32,771	31,806	7,406	4,742	6,126	347,933
	25–34	166,653	137,241	102,788	52,412	49,805	10,922	8,446	9,288	537,555
	35–44	138,157	111,449	85,382	45,751	40,427	9,592	7,952	9,576	448,286
	45–54	134,165	108,963	85,827	42,044	38,616	9,690	8,145	9,756	437,206
	55–64	146,423	124,059	87,674	43,565	40,501	10,435	8,559	6,703	467,919
	65–74	199,572	159,774	99,186	50,849	54,188	12,597	8,317	3,816	588,299
	75 and over	218,028	148,960	84,028	47,365	58,254	12,174	5,549	1,588	575,946
	Not reported	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total separations		1,273,396	970,150	708,713	357,569	355,863	80,517	58,598	54,885	3,859,691

(a) Includes separations for which sex was not reported as male or female.

Table 6.3: Separations by age group and sex, private hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	1,937	2,258	1,455	1,306	384	241	610	n.a.	8,191
	1–4	3,047	2,213	2,875	1,553	1,009	272	133	n.a.	11,102
	5–14	6,067	4,801	4,459	2,694	1,595	644	280	n.a.	20,540
	15–24	23,272	17,025	13,029	9,840	4,837	2,046	679	n.a.	70,728
	25–34	49,648	41,499	31,735	18,672	9,971	4,336	1,880	n.a.	157,741
	35–44	47,456	41,006	30,849	15,856	10,811	4,066	1,540	n.a.	151,584
	45–54	47,589	43,629	33,873	15,844	13,909	4,277	1,455	n.a.	160,576
	55–64	40,982	36,089	30,398	12,385	10,961	3,169	1,044	n.a.	135,028
	65–74	45,243	42,198	35,219	12,099	13,040	3,668	868	n.a.	152,335
	75 and over	49,293	49,791	39,369	13,459	18,037	4,549	1,034	n.a.	175,532
<i>Total</i>		<i>314,542</i>	<i>280,509</i>	<i>223,261</i>	<i>103,708</i>	<i>84,554</i>	<i>27,268</i>	<i>9,523</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1,043,365</i>
Males	Under 1	3,039	3,488	2,349	1,861	565	382	643	n.a.	12,327
	1–4	5,071	3,307	4,056	2,357	1,379	458	203	n.a.	16,831
	5–14	7,002	5,337	5,329	3,116	1,893	765	247	n.a.	23,689
	15–24	14,237	12,938	9,508	5,573	4,299	1,031	590	n.a.	48,176
	25–34	18,734	15,743	10,664	7,023	5,021	1,451	511	n.a.	59,147
	35–44	26,918	23,410	16,798	8,837	6,703	2,230	629	n.a.	85,525
	45–54	39,924	31,855	27,629	12,964	11,272	3,308	1,072	n.a.	128,024
	55–64	41,378	34,831	31,356	12,093	10,254	2,669	1,068	n.a.	133,649
	65–74	49,524	42,902	37,378	13,721	13,060	3,743	1,270	n.a.	161,598
	75 and over	46,244	41,334	42,951	15,744	11,741	3,862	1,132	n.a.	163,008
<i>Total</i>		<i>252,071</i>	<i>215,145</i>	<i>188,018</i>	<i>83,289</i>	<i>66,187</i>	<i>19,899</i>	<i>7,365</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>831,974</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	4,976	5,758	3,804	3,167	949	623	1,255	n.a.	20,532
	1–4	8,118	5,520	6,931	3,910	2,388	730	336	n.a.	27,933
	5–14	13,069	10,138	9,788	5,810	3,488	1,409	527	n.a.	44,229
	15–24	37,509	29,963	22,537	15,413	9,136	3,077	1,269	n.a.	118,904
	25–34	68,383	57,242	42,399	25,695	14,992	5,787	2,391	n.a.	216,889
	35–44	74,376	64,416	47,647	24,693	17,514	6,296	2,169	n.a.	237,111
	45–54	87,514	75,485	61,502	28,808	25,181	7,585	2,527	n.a.	288,602
	55–64	82,360	70,920	61,754	24,478	21,215	5,838	2,112	n.a.	268,677
	65–74	94,767	85,100	72,597	25,820	26,100	7,411	2,138	n.a.	313,933
	75 and over	95,537	91,125	82,320	29,203	29,778	8,411	2,166	n.a.	338,540
Total separations		566,617	495,667	411,279	186,997	150,741	47,167	16,890	n.a.	1,875,358

(a) Includes separations for which sex was not reported as male or female.

n.a. not available.

Table 6.4: Patient days by age group and sex, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(a)	Total
Females	Under 1	102,719	75,872	57,325	28,161	26,553	7,045	9,053	10,511	317,239
	1–4	51,573	26,173	26,632	15,002	11,878	2,336	2,057	6,575	142,226
	5–14	71,610	44,344	40,706	23,245	16,697	3,996	3,021	3,459	207,078
	15–24	249,212	166,587	171,098	82,738	62,545	17,746	10,490	15,099	775,515
	25–34	517,675	398,926	284,097	163,290	127,716	36,034	25,934	19,304	1,572,976
	35–44	377,975	286,617	210,546	120,754	98,522	27,371	18,328	13,038	1,153,151
	45–54	353,805	266,417	249,234	102,927	97,224	27,561	16,775	10,615	1,124,558
	55–64	371,210	273,154	256,433	99,848	95,474	28,907	16,010	8,984	1,150,020
	65–74	617,553	466,701	337,960	148,857	158,466	50,745	20,767	5,047	1,806,096
	75 and over	1,361,940	1,002,421	677,124	304,505	409,550	99,040	30,983	5,709	3,891,272
Not reported	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	22
	<i>Total</i>	<i>4,075,289</i>	<i>3,007,212</i>	<i>2,311,155</i>	<i>1,089,327</i>	<i>1,104,625</i>	<i>300,781</i>	<i>153,418</i>	<i>98,346</i>	<i>12,140,153</i>
Males	Under 1	128,108	99,418	71,788	38,022	32,082	8,445	10,155	10,827	398,845
	1–4	67,681	38,842	36,877	20,808	17,128	2,806	2,906	6,794	193,842
	5–14	92,145	57,202	50,538	27,367	21,708	5,274	3,643	4,989	262,866
	15–24	208,653	120,077	144,200	56,277	45,537	10,910	8,153	7,785	601,592
	25–34	245,521	158,154	210,917	81,745	58,454	25,387	8,854	10,693	799,725
	35–44	283,551	177,461	179,205	79,012	68,566	16,576	12,831	13,530	830,732
	45–54	372,018	230,480	252,277	104,596	86,239	22,173	14,987	12,913	1,095,683
	55–64	460,245	301,392	293,313	110,178	101,935	35,693	17,504	9,849	1,330,109
	65–74	694,696	498,905	394,008	166,774	175,061	50,430	25,558	10,206	2,015,638
	75 and over	912,208	655,966	503,440	223,179	260,020	64,743	25,058	4,848	2,649,462
Not reported	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	70
	<i>Total</i>	<i>3,464,826</i>	<i>2,337,951</i>	<i>2,136,563</i>	<i>907,958</i>	<i>866,730</i>	<i>242,437</i>	<i>129,649</i>	<i>92,450</i>	<i>10,178,564</i>
Persons ^(b)	Under 1	230,900	175,381	129,113	66,184	58,635	15,490	19,216	21,338	716,257
	1–4	119,254	65,018	63,509	35,810	29,006	5,142	4,963	13,370	336,072
	5–14	163,755	101,546	91,244	50,612	38,405	9,270	6,664	8,448	469,944
	15–24	457,865	286,664	315,298	139,015	108,082	28,657	18,643	22,917	1,377,141
	25–34	763,198	557,080	495,014	245,038	186,170	61,422	34,788	30,003	2,372,713
	35–44	661,528	464,078	389,751	199,772	167,097	43,948	31,159	26,572	1,983,905
	45–54	725,824	496,909	501,511	207,523	183,463	49,746	31,762	23,528	2,220,266
	55–64	831,455	574,546	549,746	210,034	197,409	64,600	33,514	18,833	2,480,137
	65–74	1,312,249	965,606	731,968	315,631	333,547	101,186	46,325	15,253	3,821,765
	75 and over	2,274,148	1,658,387	1,180,564	527,684	669,584	163,784	56,041	10,557	6,540,749
	Not reported	17	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Total patient days		7,540,193	5,345,269	4,447,718	1,997,303	1,971,398	543,245	283,075	190,840	22,319,041

(a) Public hospitals only in the Northern Territory.

(b) Includes patient days for which sex was not reported as male or female.

Table 6.5: Patient days by age group and sex, public hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	90,817	64,474	48,686	22,072	24,745	5,960	5,525	10,511	272,790
	1–4	46,322	23,567	22,663	12,759	10,772	1,961	1,920	6,575	126,539
	5–14	61,076	36,886	33,958	19,026	14,418	3,116	2,706	3,459	174,645
	15–24	206,079	131,035	143,058	64,029	52,660	13,607	9,078	15,099	634,645
	25–34	380,026	270,825	188,296	105,628	95,040	22,565	18,253	19,304	1,099,937
	35–44	265,762	178,739	132,882	77,678	66,949	15,961	12,436	13,038	763,445
	45–54	243,874	158,381	166,571	63,384	59,090	15,664	11,935	10,615	729,514
	55–64	264,681	175,473	171,514	65,534	60,964	19,235	12,307	8,984	778,692
	65–74	464,154	308,252	208,871	102,078	107,361	34,626	15,968	5,047	1,246,357
	75 and over	1,078,774	670,069	392,176	217,419	289,099	70,608	22,765	5,709	2,746,619
	Not reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
<i>Total</i>		<i>3,101,565</i>	<i>2,017,701</i>	<i>1,508,675</i>	<i>749,607</i>	<i>781,098</i>	<i>203,303</i>	<i>112,893</i>	<i>98,346</i>	<i>8,573,188</i>
Males	Under 1	113,073	84,904	60,660	29,730	29,920	7,044	6,674	10,827	342,832
	1–4	61,013	35,044	31,433	17,706	15,610	2,247	2,669	6,794	172,516
	5–14	79,827	47,446	42,560	23,139	19,344	4,192	3,357	4,989	224,854
	15–24	183,896	93,110	128,168	45,056	37,146	8,950	7,253	7,785	511,364
	25–34	209,912	122,373	191,647	68,670	48,762	22,783	7,922	10,693	682,762
	35–44	233,016	129,439	147,492	61,664	54,243	11,885	11,311	13,530	662,580
	45–54	282,629	163,025	186,116	75,750	60,859	14,514	11,914	12,913	807,720
	55–64	362,059	215,375	215,390	79,054	74,001	28,281	14,117	9,849	998,126
	65–74	541,383	357,848	262,765	117,551	131,527	36,223	20,319	10,206	1,477,822
	75 and over	701,158	444,391	265,605	141,923	200,631	43,714	17,908	4,848	1,820,178
	Not reported	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
<i>Total</i>		<i>2,767,966</i>	<i>1,693,009</i>	<i>1,531,836</i>	<i>660,243</i>	<i>672,043</i>	<i>179,833</i>	<i>103,444</i>	<i>92,450</i>	<i>7,700,824</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	203,963	149,385	109,346	51,803	54,665	13,004	12,199	21,338	615,703
	1–4	107,335	58,614	54,096	30,465	26,382	4,208	4,589	13,370	299,059
	5–14	140,903	84,332	76,518	42,165	33,762	7,308	6,063	8,448	399,499
	15–24	389,975	224,145	271,226	109,085	89,806	22,558	16,331	22,917	1,146,043
	25–34	589,939	393,198	379,943	174,301	143,802	45,349	26,175	30,003	1,782,710
	35–44	498,778	308,178	280,374	139,348	121,201	27,847	23,747	26,572	1,426,045
	45–54	526,503	321,406	352,687	139,134	119,949	30,190	23,849	23,528	1,537,246
	55–64	626,740	390,848	386,904	144,596	134,965	47,516	26,424	18,833	1,776,826
	65–74	1,005,537	666,100	471,636	219,629	238,908	70,860	36,287	15,253	2,724,210
	75 and over	1,779,932	1,114,460	657,781	359,342	489,744	114,323	40,673	10,557	4,566,812
	Not reported	0	54	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
Total patient days		5,869,605	3,710,720	3,040,511	1,409,868	1,453,184	383,163	216,337	190,840	16,274,228

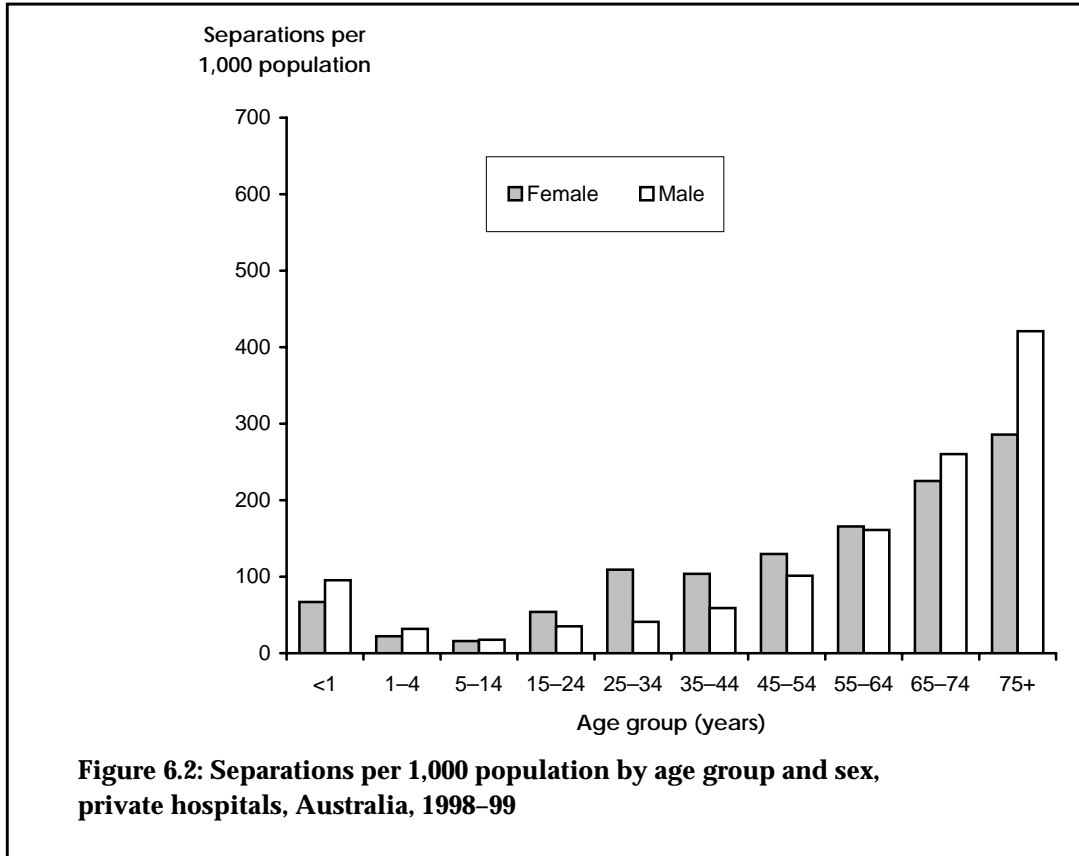
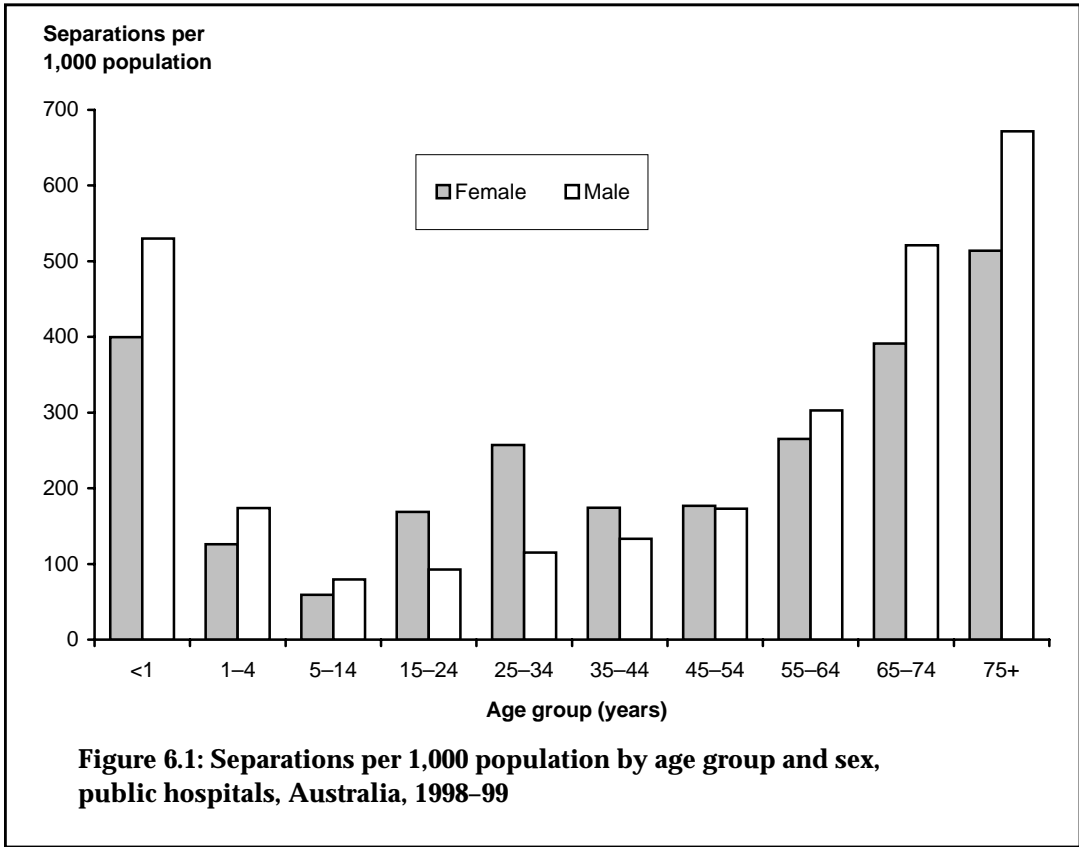
(a) Includes patient days for which sex was not reported as male or female.

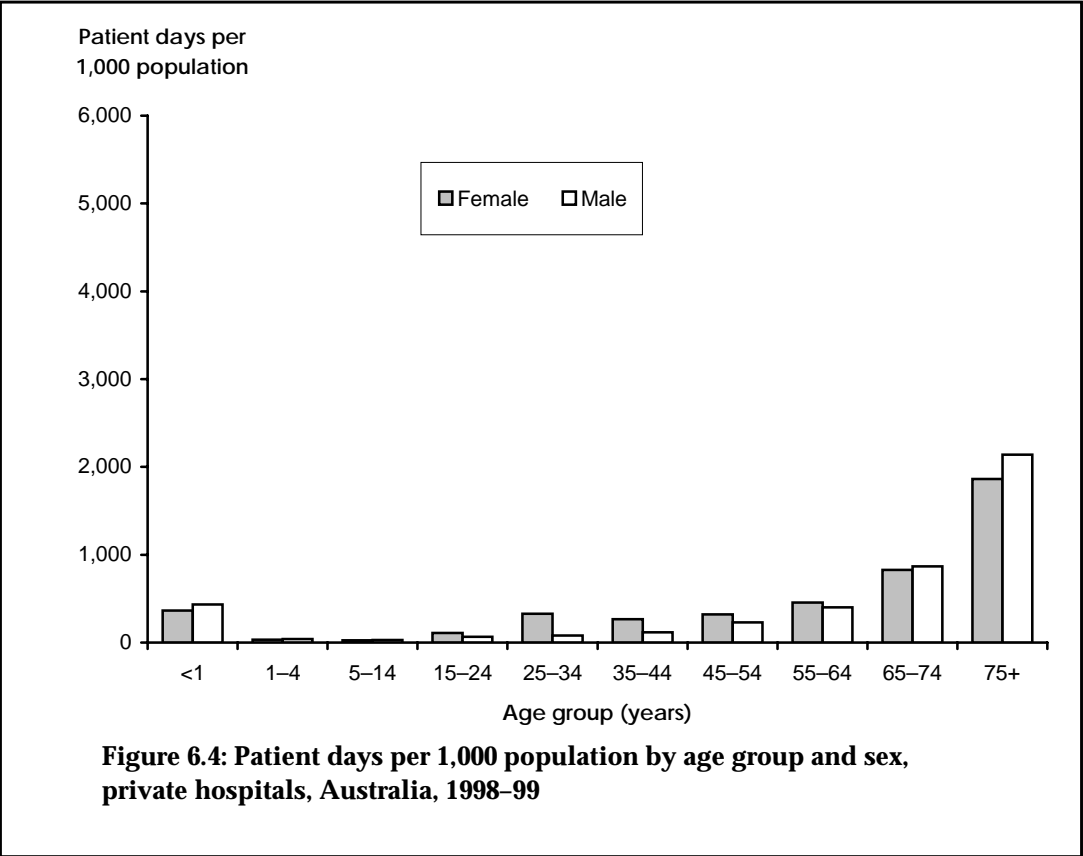
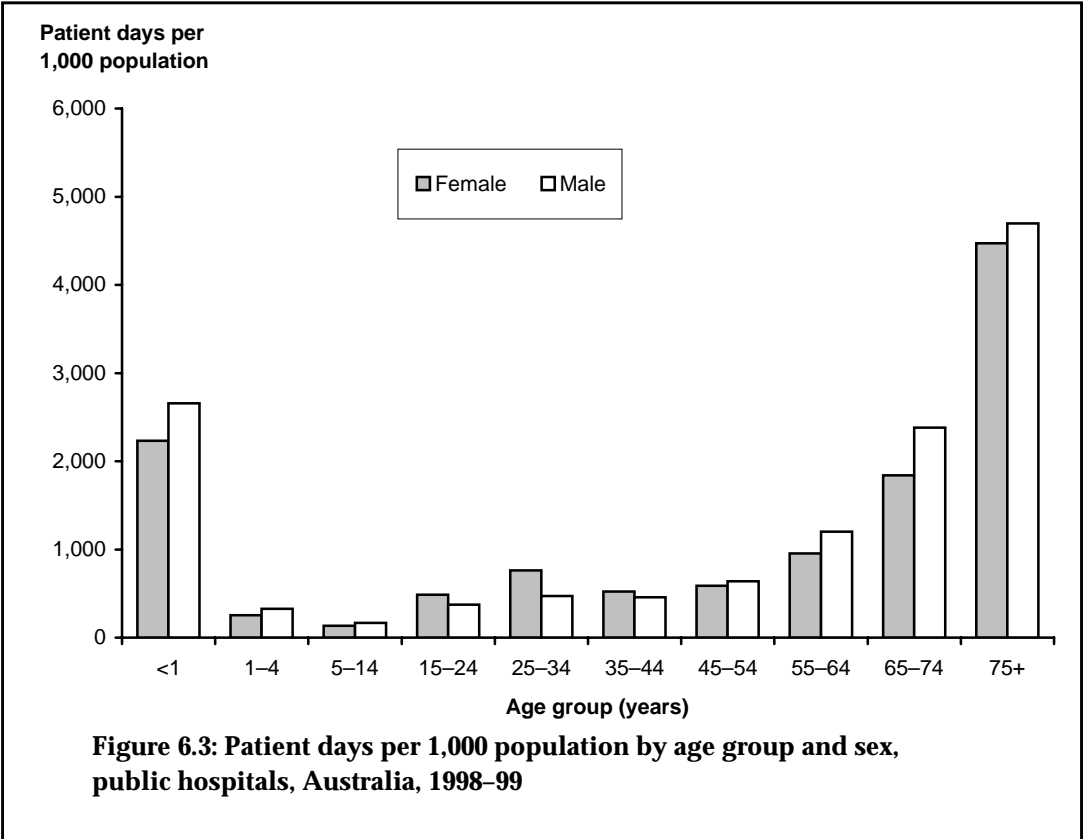
Table 6.6: Patient days by age group and sex, private hospitals, States and Territories, 1998–99

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	11,902	11,398	8,639	6,089	1,808	1,085	3,528	n.a.	44,449
	1–4	5,251	2,606	3,969	2,243	1,106	375	137	n.a.	15,687
	5–14	10,534	7,458	6,748	4,219	2,279	880	315	n.a.	32,433
	15–24	43,133	35,552	28,040	18,709	9,885	4,139	1,412	n.a.	140,870
	25–34	137,649	128,101	95,801	57,662	32,676	13,469	7,681	n.a.	473,039
	35–44	112,213	107,878	77,664	43,076	31,573	11,410	5,892	n.a.	389,706
	45–54	109,931	108,036	82,663	39,543	38,134	11,897	4,840	n.a.	395,044
	55–64	106,529	97,681	84,919	34,314	34,510	9,672	3,703	n.a.	371,328
	65–74	153,399	158,449	129,089	46,779	51,105	16,119	4,799	n.a.	559,739
	75 and over	283,166	332,352	284,948	87,086	120,451	28,432	8,218	n.a.	1,144,653
	<i>Total</i>	<i>973,724</i>	<i>989,511</i>	<i>802,480</i>	<i>339,720</i>	<i>323,527</i>	<i>97,478</i>	<i>40,525</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>3,566,965</i>
Males	Under 1	15,035	14,514	11,128	8,292	2,162	1,401	3,481	n.a.	56,013
	1–4	6,668	3,798	5,444	3,102	1,518	559	237	n.a.	21,326
	5–14	12,318	9,756	7,978	4,228	2,364	1,082	286	n.a.	38,012
	15–24	24,757	26,967	16,032	11,221	8,391	1,960	900	n.a.	90,228
	25–34	35,609	35,781	19,270	13,075	9,692	2,604	932	n.a.	116,963
	35–44	50,535	48,022	31,713	17,348	14,323	4,691	1,520	n.a.	168,152
	45–54	89,389	67,455	66,161	28,846	25,380	7,659	3,073	n.a.	287,963
	55–64	98,186	86,017	77,923	31,124	27,934	7,412	3,387	n.a.	331,983
	65–74	153,313	141,057	131,243	49,223	43,534	14,207	5,239	n.a.	537,816
	75 and over	211,050	211,575	237,835	81,256	59,389	21,029	7,150	n.a.	829,284
	<i>Total</i>	<i>696,860</i>	<i>644,942</i>	<i>604,727</i>	<i>247,715</i>	<i>194,687</i>	<i>62,604</i>	<i>26,205</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>2,477,740</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	26,937	25,996	19,767	14,381	3,970	2,486	7,017	n.a.	100,554
	1–4	11,919	6,404	9,413	5,345	2,624	934	374	n.a.	37,013
	5–14	22,852	17,214	14,726	8,447	4,643	1,962	601	n.a.	70,445
	15–24	67,890	62,519	44,072	29,930	18,276	6,099	2,312	n.a.	231,098
	25–34	173,259	163,882	115,071	70,737	42,368	16,073	8,613	n.a.	590,003
	35–44	162,750	155,900	109,377	60,424	45,896	16,101	7,412	n.a.	557,860
	45–54	199,321	175,503	148,824	68,389	63,514	19,556	7,913	n.a.	683,020
	55–64	204,715	183,698	162,842	65,438	62,444	17,084	7,090	n.a.	703,311
	65–74	306,712	299,506	260,332	96,002	94,639	30,326	10,038	n.a.	1,097,555
	75 and over	494,216	543,927	522,783	168,342	179,840	49,461	15,368	n.a.	1,973,937
	Total patient days	1,670,571	1,634,549	1,407,207	587,435	518,214	160,082	66,738	n.a.	6,044,813

(a) Includes patient days for which sex was not reported as male or female.

n.a. not available.





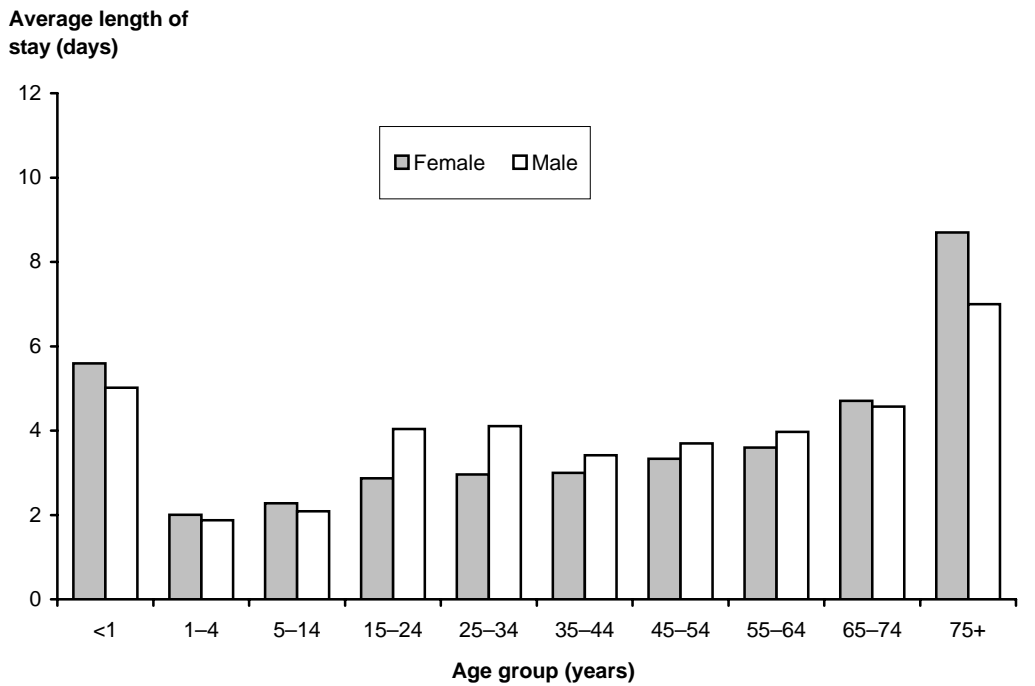


Figure 6.5: Average length of stay by age group and sex, public hospitals, Australia, 1998-99

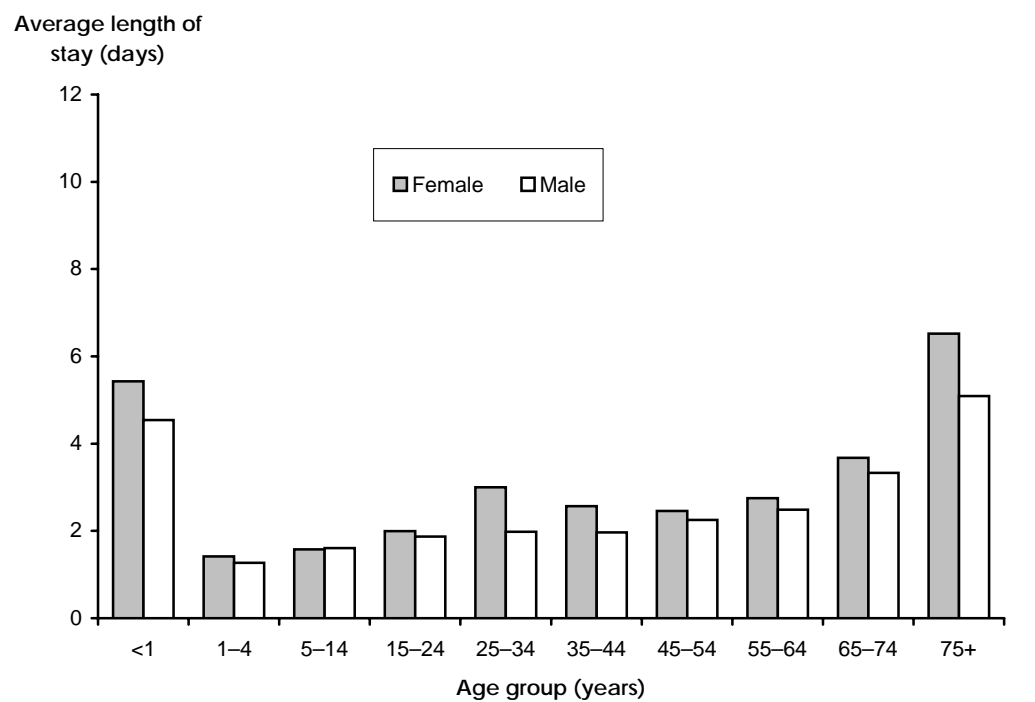


Figure 6.6: Average length of stay by age group and sex, private hospitals, Australia, 1998-99

Table 6.7: Separations by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status^(a) and hospital sector, States and Territories, 1998–99

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status	Public hospitals								
Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin	28,224	2,668	35,816	33,218	10,748	246	42	31,210	142,172
Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin	357	20	7,321	39	23	0	0	78	7,838
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	238	114	1,959	389	31	6	0	476	3,213
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified	0	3,366	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,366
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	1,244,577	963,933	638,099	323,910	336,666	26,874	57,405	21,864	3,613,328
Not reported	0	49	25,518	13	8,395	53,391	1,151	1,257	89,774
Total	1,273,396	970,150	708,713	357,569	355,863	80,517	58,598	54,885	3,859,691
	Private hospitals								
Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin	905	6	204	537	193	24	2	n.a.	1,871
Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin	286	6	103	6	10	0	0	n.a.	411
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	34	7	26	36	4	0	0	n.a.	107
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified	0	318	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	318
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	565,392	490,297	293,369	186,418	142,403	11,867	15,912	n.a.	1,705,658
Not reported	0	5,033	117,577	0	8,131	35,276	976	n.a.	166,993
Total	566,617	495,667	411,279	186,997	150,741	47,167	16,890	n.a.	1,875,358
	All hospitals^(b)								
Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin	29,129	2,674	36,020	33,755	10,941	270	44	31,210	144,043
Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin	643	26	7,424	45	33	0	0	78	8,249
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	272	121	1,985	425	35	6	0	476	3,320
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified	0	3,684	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,684
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	1,809,969	1,454,230	931,468	510,328	479,069	38,741	73,317	21,864	5,318,986
Not reported	0	5,082	143,095	13	16,526	88,667	2,127	1,257	256,767
Total	1,840,013	1,465,817	1,119,992	544,566	506,604	127,684	75,488	54,885	5,735,049
Separation rate ^(c) for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islanders per 1,000	357	361	597	816	691	n.p.	n.p.	887	562
Separation rate ^(c) for others per 1,000	277	300	273	289	305	n.p.	302	149	280
Separation rate for all per 1,000	278	301	321	301	314	259	267	352	296

(a) Identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients is not considered to be complete and completeness varies amongst the jurisdictions. See the text of Chapter 6 for further detail.

(b) Public hospitals only in the Northern Territory.

(c) The rates were directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991. For details, see Appendix 3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population data are included in Appendix 8.

n.a. not available.

n.p. not published, as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status was not reported for 69% of separations in Tasmania, and there was known under-reporting in the Australian Capital Territory.

Separations per 1,000 population

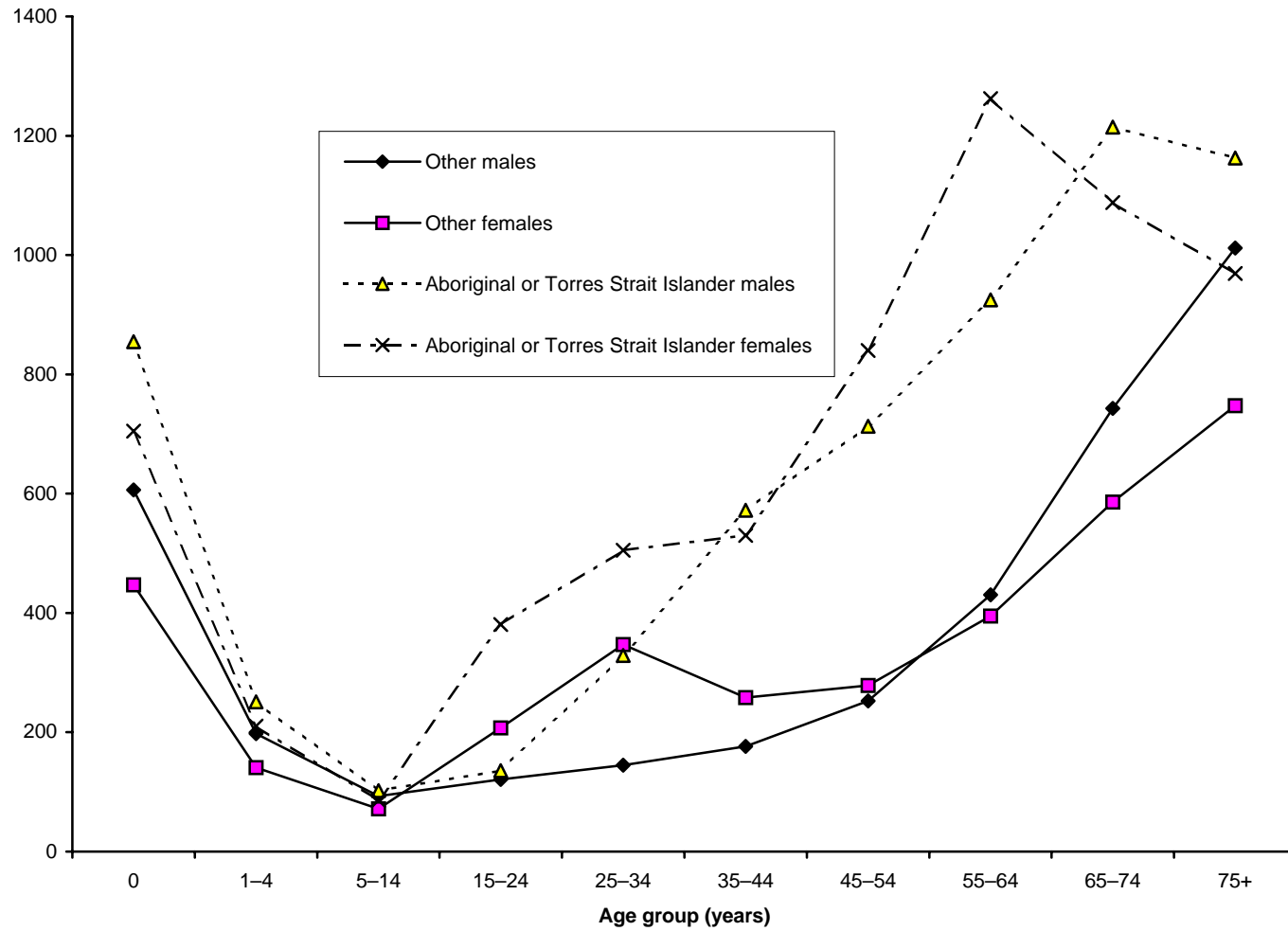


Figure 6.7: Separations per 1,000 population by sex, age group and reported Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin status, all hospitals, Australia, 1998-99

Table 6.8: Separations by selected country/region of birth and hospital sector, Australia, 1998–99

Country/region	Separations			Separations per 1,000 population ^(a)		
	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors
Australia	2,859,861	1,417,531	4,277,392	203.1	102.4	305.4
New Zealand	58,633	21,756	80,389	179.6	66.3	245.9
Papua New Guinea	4,887	2,345	7,232	245.7	116.4	362.2
Fiji	9,634	2,556	12,190	304.0	78.4	382.3
Oceania (other)	10,914	3,481	14,395	421.1	137.9	559.0
<i>Oceania (total)</i>	<i>2,943,929</i>	<i>1,447,669</i>	<i>4,391,598</i>	<i>203.1</i>	<i>101.5</i>	<i>304.6</i>
United Kingdom and Ireland	264,353	129,884	394,237	155.7	71.9	227.5
Greece	47,644	12,188	59,832	196.3	60.0	256.3
Italy	81,107	37,843	118,950	176.8	83.8	260.6
Malta	14,972	5,365	20,337	176.1	65.2	241.2
Former Yugoslavia	47,154	11,773	58,927	177.7	42.3	220.1
Former USSR and Baltic States	20,253	5,860	26,113	179.4	58.4	237.8
Hungary	8,576	4,626	13,202	157.1	75.5	232.5
Poland	19,264	8,395	27,659	148.1	63.1	211.2
Romania	3,128	1,086	4,214	183.6	63.6	247.3
Austria	4,748	2,950	7,698	154.1	120.5	274.6
France	3,610	2,131	5,741	167.4	95.9	263.3
Germany	27,263	14,047	41,310	154.9	74.7	229.6
Netherlands	24,484	9,706	34,190	160.5	60.9	221.5
Europe and the former USSR (other)	31,038	12,530	43,568	197.6	75.2	272.7
<i>Europe and the former USSR (total)</i>	<i>597,594</i>	<i>258,384</i>	<i>855,978</i>	<i>166.9</i>	<i>69.3</i>	<i>236.2</i>
Lebanon	23,639	4,467	28,106	288.8	48.3	337.1
Turkey	8,816	1,464	10,280	277.0	45.3	322.2
Iran	3,127	942	4,069	195.4	47.6	242.9
Egypt	10,499	4,928	15,427	197.5	77.3	274.7
Middle East and North Africa (other)	11,243	3,032	14,275	224.6	57.8	282.4
<i>Middle East and North Africa (total)</i>	<i>57,324</i>	<i>14,833</i>	<i>72,157</i>	<i>244.5</i>	<i>58.7</i>	<i>303.1</i>

(continued)

Table 6.8 (continued): Separations by selected country/region of birth and hospital sector, Australia, 1998–99

Country/region	Separations			Separations per 1,000 population ^(a)		
	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors
Myanmar	1,975	1,130	3,105	137.5	70.8	208.2
Indonesia	6,181	2,856	9,037	139.5	62.4	201.9
Cambodia	4,113	880	4,993	193.8	40.5	234.4
Malaysia	8,566	5,387	13,953	143.4	76.4	219.8
Philippines	18,010	3,538	21,548	170.9	29.5	200.4
Singapore	3,496	2,281	5,777	191.4	121.5	312.8
Vietnam	24,462	4,861	29,323	144.0	27.8	171.7
Thailand	2,346	661	3,007	130.4	38.7	169.1
China	21,920	7,093	29,013	117.9	37.2	155.1
Hong Kong and Macau	5,551	3,771	9,322	173.0	114.1	287.1
Japan	2,285	2,116	4,401	203.2	147.0	350.2
Korea	3,581	1,043	4,624	108.7	30.5	139.2
India	16,283	7,113	23,396	154.7	62.2	216.8
Sri Lanka	9,548	3,761	13,309	167.3	60.9	228.2
Asia (other)	8,328	2,637	10,965	230.2	78.5	308.7
<i>Asia (total)</i>	<i>136,645</i>	<i>49,128</i>	<i>185,773</i>	<i>146.5</i>	<i>51.1</i>	<i>197.5</i>
Canada	3,881	2,782	6,663	137.6	94.3	231.9
United States of America	6,703	5,913	12,616	116.5	97.5	214.0
North America (other)	338	60	398	907.4	128.1	1,035.5
<i>North America (total)</i>	<i>10,922</i>	<i>8,755</i>	<i>19,677</i>	<i>125.5</i>	<i>96.0</i>	<i>221.5</i>
Argentina	1,803	826	2,629	142.9	63.9	206.9
Chile	4,634	1,446	6,080	181.9	50.4	232.3
The Caribbean	1,289	678	1,967	340.3	167.4	507.6
Other	8,020	2,232	10,252	205.9	52.4	258.3
<i>South America, Central America and The Caribbean (total)</i>	<i>15,746</i>	<i>5,182</i>	<i>20,928</i>	<i>198.8</i>	<i>59.4</i>	<i>258.2</i>
Mauritius	3,515	1,956	5,471	177.8	84.0	261.9
South Africa	8,370	6,592	14,962	126.3	93.5	219.8
Africa excluding North Africa (other)	6,991	3,126	10,117	182.3	83.7	266.0
<i>Africa excluding North Africa (total)</i>	<i>18,876</i>	<i>11,674</i>	<i>30,550</i>	<i>151.2</i>	<i>87.9</i>	<i>239.1</i>
<i>Overseas (total)</i>	<i>921,175</i>	<i>378,094</i>	<i>1,299,269</i>	<i>171.1</i>	<i>64.4</i>	<i>235.5</i>
Not stated or inadequately described	78,655	79,733	158,388
Total	3,859,691	1,875,358	5,735,049	200.9	95.4	296.3

(a) The rates were directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991. For details, see Appendix 3. Population data by country of birth are included in Appendix 8.

.. not applicable.