

4 Overview of activity in Australian hospitals

This chapter presents summary statistics for admitted patients in public and private hospitals, and for non-admitted patients in public hospitals. Information is included on the number of separations for patients and their aggregated and average lengths of stay, presented on the basis of the sector of the hospital (public or private) and the type of hospital within the sector. Later chapters present information on the basis of characteristics of the patients and their hospital stays (Chapters 5 to 10).

Tables 4.1 and 4.2 are derived from the National Hospital Morbidity Database and present summary separation, patient day, average length of stay and average cost weight information by hospital sector and type. Table 4.1 reports the available national statistics for the years 1995–96 to 1999–00 and Table 4.2 reports the statistics for 1999–00 by State and Territory. All types of episode of care are included, except as noted below for the average cost weight information. That is, separations for which the type of episode of care was *Acute care*, *Rehabilitation care*, *Palliative care*, *Non-acute care* and *Other care* are included, as are *Newborn* episodes of care, provided that they had at least one qualified patient day.

For 1999–00, the hospital sectors and types reported in this chapter are public acute hospitals, public psychiatric hospitals, private free-standing day hospital facilities and other private hospitals. Data are also presented for all public hospitals combined, all acute hospitals (that is, excluding public psychiatric hospitals), all private hospitals and all hospitals.

Data on non-admitted patient occasions of service in public hospitals, derived from the National Public Hospital Establishments Database, are summarised in Table 4.3. The occasions of service are categorised by service type and provide information on the range of emergency department, outpatient and other non-admitted services provided by public hospitals.

As detailed in Chapter 1, there is some variation in the scope of the National Hospital Morbidity Database among the States and Territories. There is also some variation in the way in which *Newborn* episodes of care were reported and in the inclusion of periods of hospital in the home care, as described in Appendix 3. These variations should be considered when comparing States and Territories, the public and private sectors and reporting years.

Admitted patients by sector and hospital type

Separations

There were 5,897,860 separations reported from public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals in 1999–00 (Table 4.2), an increase of 162,811 (2.8%) compared with 1998–99 (Table 4.1). Public hospital separations increased by 0.3% (12,507) compared with 1998–99 and there was an 8.0% (150,304) increase in the private sector.

The increase in the private sector is likely partly to reflect increased coverage of the National Hospital Morbidity Database for 1999–00. Compared with 1998–99, coverage increased for private hospitals other than free-standing day hospital facilities in Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, but decreased slightly for private free-standing day hospital facilities in Victoria. It is roughly estimated that an increase of about 23,100 separations may be attributable to this changed coverage (based simply on the decrease in the separation count for private free-standing day hospital facilities in Victoria, increases in separation counts for other private hospitals in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, and increases for hospitals in Western Australia to the levels reported for 1998–99 from the Private Health Establishments Collection). In that case, the increase in private sector separations not attributable to the increased coverage would have been about 127,200, or 6.8%. This follows increases (not adjusted for coverage change) of 4.6% between 1997–98 and 1998–99, and of 6.4% between 1996–97 and 1997–98.

The number of separations reported for public psychiatric hospitals (17,950) decreased by 2,326 when compared with 1998–99, a decrease of 11.5%.

The private sector accounted for 34.3% of the 5.89 million separations (2,025,662), compared with 32.7% (1,875,358) in 1998–99. Private free-standing day hospital facilities accounted for 280,136 or 13.8% of private sector separations, compared with 261,139 or 13.9% in 1998–99.

There was some variation in the number of separations reported for each month of the year, for both the public and private sectors (Figures 4.1 and 4.2). The least number of separations were reported for January for both sectors, apparent for both same day and non-same day separations.

Same day separations

1999–00 saw a continuation of the recent annual increases in the proportions of admitted patients being treated on a same day basis, that is, admitted and separated on the same date.

Same day separations have been distinguished from other separations in this report to illustrate the proportions of total separations which they represent, and also to demonstrate the effect on average lengths of stay when patients receiving this type of hospital care are classified as admitted. In most countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), same day patients are not admitted, and reported average lengths of stay are greater than those calculated for Australia (OECD 2000).

In Australia in 1999–00, 2,904,107 separations were on a same day basis, an increase of 5.7% compared with 1998–99 and 32.5% compared with 1995–96. These separations comprised 49.2% of all separations (compared with 47.9% (2,747,027) in 1998–99). There were increases in the proportions of same day patients in both public acute hospitals (from 44.7% to 45.8%) and private hospitals (from 54.8% to 56.2%).

There was some variation among the States and Territories in the proportion of separations that were same day separations. For public acute hospitals, New South Wales had a lower proportion than the national average (40.9%), whereas the Australian Capital Territory (51.9%) and the Northern Territory (51.3%) had markedly higher proportions. In the private sector, New South Wales (59.4%) and Queensland (57.8%) reported higher proportions than average. The Australian Capital Territory (42.3%) and Tasmania (45.9%) reported lower proportions, reflecting the incomplete coverage of private free-standing day hospital facilities for these two jurisdictions.

Separation rates

The age-standardised separation rate per 1,000 population decreased by 1.1% between 1998–99 and 1999–00 for public acute hospitals and increased by 6.2% for private hospitals, not adjusted for changes in coverage (Table 4.1, Figure 4.3).

Among the States and Territories, the Northern Territory reported the highest age-standardised public acute hospital separation rate in 1999–00 (360.3 per 1,000 population; Table 4.2) and Tasmania reported the lowest (154.3 per 1,000 population). Private hospital separation rates ranged from 79.1 per 1,000 population in the Australian Capital Territory (for which separations from same day facilities were not included in the database) to 123.6 per 1,000 population in Queensland. For all hospitals combined, the Northern Territory reported the highest age-standardised separation rate (360.3 per 1,000 population), despite its private hospital not being included in the database.

These rates are likely to have been affected by whether or not separate episodes of care (see Glossary) within a hospital stay were counted as individual separations, the way in which hospital stays for patients aged 9 days or less on admission (*Newborn* episodes) were counted, and the reporting of hospital in the home care (see Appendix 3 for details). The private sector in the Australian Capital Territory and Tasmania had not implemented separate episodes of care in 1999–00 and this would have had the effect of reducing the number of separations and increasing the average length of stay for these hospitals in comparison with the others. In addition, there were changes in the coverage of private hospitals, as described above that would affect comparisons between reporting years.

The age-standardised separation rate for public psychiatric hospitals varied widely, from 0.1 per 1,000 population in Victoria, to 2.4 per 1,000 population in South Australia. This variation reflects differences in the extent to which public psychiatric services have been mainstreamed into public acute hospitals.

Average cost weight of separations

In Table 4.2, average cost weights are presented for 1999–00 based on the 1998–99 combined cost weights for the Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Group (AR-DRG) version 4.0/4.1 into which each separation was assigned on the basis of demographic and clinical characteristics of the patient. Separations were only included where the type of episode of care was reported as *Acute*, or was not reported, or where the episode type was *Newborn* and the separation had at least one qualified day. Thus separations for rehabilitation, palliative care, non-acute care, other care and newborns with no qualified days were excluded.

The average cost weight information provides a guide to the relative complexity and resource use of admissions within hospitals, with a value of 1.00 representing the theoretical average for all separations. Cost weights for 1998–99 were used, as 1999–00 cost weights were not available at the time of publication of this report (see Appendix 8). Separate private and public sector cost weights were used, as they reflect the differing cost structures of the two sectors. Public sector cost weights were used for the rows *Public acute and private hospitals*, and *Total*.

In Tables 4.1 and 4.2, average cost weights for 1998–99 are based on the 1998–99 combined cost weights for AR-DRG versions 4.0 and 4.1. Average cost weights for 1997–98 and for 1996–97 are based on AN-DR version 3.1 and 1997–98 and 1996–97 cost weights, respectively. Average cost weights for 1995–96 are based on AN-DR version 3.0 and its corresponding cost weights. Comparisons of average cost weights between the

reporting years and between the sectors should therefore be made with caution. Further information about the AR-DRG classification and cost weights is included in Chapter 10 and Appendix 8.

Table 4.2 indicates that, within the public sector, most States and Territories had average cost weights close to the national average for public acute hospitals. The Northern Territory was the only exception, with an average cost weight of 0.77. This reflects the high proportion (33.2%) of separations in the Northern Territory that were for *Admit for renal dialysis* (AR-DRG L61Z), an AR-DRG with a relatively low cost weight.

The validity of comparisons of average cost weights is limited by differences in the extent to which each jurisdiction's psychiatric services are integrated into its public hospital system. For example, in Victoria, almost all public psychiatric hospitals are now mainstreamer and are therefore included in the public acute hospital data. Cost weights are of little use as a measure of resource requirements for these services because the relevant AR-DRGs are much less homogeneous than for other acute services.

The average cost weight for private free-standing day hospitals was markedly lower (0.56) than for other private hospitals (1.05), reflecting the lower complexity and same day nature of most admissions in these hospitals. The average cost weights for the other private hospitals ranged from 0.98 in Western Australia to 1.13 in the Australian Capital Territory.

Patient days

Patient days represent the number of full or partial days stay for patients who separated from hospital during the reporting period, and represent the aggregated length of stay for all patients (see Glossary). They have previously been referred to as bed days. A total of 22,586,046 patient days were reported for 1999–00, 71.9% in the public sector and 28.1% in the private sector.

There was an increase in patient days reported for public acute hospitals (85,145, 0.6%) in 1999–00 compared with 1998–99, and there was also an increase reported for private hospitals (311,012, 5.1%). Patient days for public acute and private hospitals combined increased by 1.9% (396,157) and for all hospitals combined, they increased by 1.2% (267,005).

Public psychiatric hospital patient days decreased by 10.0% (129,152) nationally. Age-standardised rates for 1999–00 ranged from 6.2 patient days per 1,000 population in Victoria to 120.8 per 1,000 population in Queensland.

The number of age-standardised patient days per 1,000 population in 1999–00 fell by 0.3% for public acute and private hospitals combined compared with 1998–99. Public acute hospital patient days per 1,000 fell by 1.5%, with those for private hospitals increasing by 2.8%.

Of the States and Territories, the Northern Territory reported the highest number of patient days per 1,000 population for public acute hospitals in 1999–00 (1,291.9 per 1,000 population) and Tasmania reported the lowest (648.7 per 1,000 population). The highest age-standardised population rate for patient days in private hospitals was reported by Queensland (402.9 per 1,000 population). The highest rate for all hospitals combined was reported by the Northern Territory (1,291.9 per 1,000 population) and the lowest by Tasmania (1,009.3 per 1,000 population).

Average length of stay

The average length of stay for public acute and private hospitals combined was 3.6 days, a slight reduction from 3.7 days in 1998–99, reflecting the increases in same day separations and a continuation of the trend suggested by the data over the last few years (Figure 4.4). For public acute hospitals, there was no change between 1998–99 and 1999–00 (3.9 days). For private hospitals, the average length of stay was 3.1 days in 1999–00, a reduction from 3.2 days in the previous year. The average length of stay for public psychiatric hospitals increased from 63.4 days in 1998–99 to 64.4 days in 1999–00.

Tasmania reported the greatest average length of stay for public acute hospitals (4.5 days) and the Northern Territory reported the shortest (3.4 days). For private hospitals other than free-standing day hospital facilities, Queensland reported the greatest average length of stay (3.9 days) and Western Australia reported the shortest (3.2 days).

With same day separations excluded (as is the practice in most OECD countries), average lengths of stay have not reduced markedly over the last few years (Table 4.1, Figure 4.4). The average length of stay in 1999–00 was longer than in 1998–99 for public acute hospitals (6.4 days compared with 6.3 days). For private hospitals, the average length of stay remained the same in 1998–99 and 1999–00 (5.9 days). These figures indicate that most of the reductions in average length of stay overall are a result of increasing proportions of same day separations, rather than reductions in length of stay for non-same day stays. The average lengths of stay are within the range of those reported for 1997 and 1998 average lengths of stay for acute care for other OECD countries (OECD 2000).

Non-admitted patients in public hospitals

Information on non-admitted patient occasions of service delivered by Australian public acute and psychiatric hospitals is provided in Table 4.3.

About 34 million non-admitted patient occasions of service were delivered to individuals through Australian public acute hospitals in 1999–00. The largest groups of these were *Other medical/surgical/obstetric* encounters (34.2% of the total), followed by *Accident and emergency* services (15.5%) and *Pathology* (12.4%). *Allied health* and *Community health* were also frequently provided services, together accounting for 14.3% of non-admitted patient services. These categories include services such as: physiotherapy, speech therapy, dietary advice, baby clinics, aged care assessment teams and immunisation clinics.

In addition to the services provided to individuals, 473,449 group sessions were delivered through public acute hospitals. These services include group activities conducted in the same areas against which individual non-admitted patient services are recorded. A group service is defined as a service provided to two or more patients, but excludes services provided to two or more family members, which are treated as services provided to an individual. Because of the inconsistent reporting of group sessions against the sub-categories, the total number of sessions only is reported.

Users of these data should note that there is considerable variation among States and Territories and between reporting years, for the way in which non-admitted patient occasions of service data are collected. In particular, South Australian hospitals reported non-admitted patient services using a different set of categories that is not consistent with those used by other States and Territories. South Australia's casemix payment system determines the categories for reporting non-admitted patient services and these only partially align with the national categories. Categories for which there is no equivalent

category are reported as 'not applicable'. Over the last few years, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania all had changes in reporting arrangements for non-admitted occasions of service. For example, in New South Wales the large increase from 117,025 mental health occasions of service in 1997-98 to 995,176 in 1998-99 is due to reclassification of a class of occasions of service previously reported under community health.

Differing admission practices between the States and Territories will also lead to variation among jurisdictions in the services reported in Table 4.3. States and Territories may also differ in the extent to which these types of services are provided in non-hospital settings (such as community health centres), which is beyond the scope of this data collection.

Data on the number of non-admitted patient occasions of service provided through public psychiatric hospitals are also requested, although data collection in this area is poor. A total of 83,825 services were provided in Queensland, the only State or Territory for which these data were supplied (Table 4.3). These services include emergency and outpatient care and outreach/community care provided to individuals or groups. Information collected for these hospitals is not disaggregated further, due to the restricted range of services usually provided through psychiatric hospitals.

Table 4.1: Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, by hospital type, Australia, 1995–96 to 1999–00^(a)

	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–00
Separations ('000)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	3,593	3,642	3,770	3,860	3,872
Public acute hospitals	3,568	3,622	3,748	3,839	3,854
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	25	20	23	20	18
Private hospitals	1,577	1,685	1,793	1,875	2,026
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	221	248	261	280
Other private hospitals	n.a.	1,464	1,545	1,614	1,746
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	5,146	5,307	5,541	5,715	5,880
Total	5,171	5,327	5,563	5,735	5,898
Same day separations ('000)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	1,420	1,521	1,625	1,719	1,767
Public acute hospitals	1,419	1,520	1,622	1,716	1,764
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	1	1	2	2	2
Private hospitals	772	859	953	1,028	1,137
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	220	248	260	278
Other private hospitals	n.a.	640	705	769	860
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	2,191	2,379	2,575	2,745	2,902
Total	2,192	2,380	2,578	2,747	2,904
Same day separations as a % of total					
Public hospitals ^(b)	39.5	41.8	43.1	44.5	45.6
Public acute hospitals	39.8	42.0	43.3	44.7	45.8
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	5.5	3.9	10.6	11.3	13.3
Private hospitals	48.9	51.0	53.1	54.8	56.2
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	99.2	100.0	99.4	99.2
Other private hospitals	n.a.	43.7	45.6	47.6	49.3
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	42.6	44.8	46.5	48.0	49.3
Total	42.4	44.7	46.3	47.9	49.2
Separations per 1,000 population^(e)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	196.3	195.8	199.9	199.7	197.4
Public acute hospitals	193.2	193.1	197.0	198.7	196.5
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
Private hospitals	85.1	89.2	93.2	95.5	101.4
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	11.8	12.9	13.3	14.1
Other private hospitals	n.a.	77.5	80.2	82.2	87.3
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	277.7	281.6	289.4	293.5	297.1
Total	279.1	282.7	290.6	294.5	298.0
Average cost weight of separations^(f)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	1.02	1.02	1.00	1.00	0.99
Public acute hospitals	1.02	1.02	1.00	0.99	0.99
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	1.19	1.19	1.58	1.79	1.64
Private hospitals	0.92	0.94	0.96	0.90	0.98
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	0.54	0.56	0.52	0.56
Other private hospitals	n.a.	1.01	1.02	0.97	1.05
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.96	0.99
Total	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.99

(continued)

Table 4.1 (continued): Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, by hospital type, Australia, 1995–96 to 1999–00^(a)

	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99	1999–00
Patient days ('000)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	16,555	16,532	16,560	16,274	16,230
Public acute hospitals	15,607	15,181	15,152	14,989	15,074
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	948	1,350	1,409	1,285	1,156
Private hospitals	5,893	5,834	5,995	6,045	6,356
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	222	248	261	280
Other private hospitals	n.a.	5,613	5,747	5,784	6,076
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	21,499	21,015	21,146	21,034	21,430
Total	22,448	22,366	22,555	22,319	22,586
Patient days per 1,000 population^(e)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	878.3	861.7	848.8	817.8	799.6
Public acute hospitals	827.1	789.4	774.1	751.3	740.2
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	89.8	72.3	74.7	66.6	59.3
Private hospitals	311.6	302.0	303.8	299.4	307.7
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	0.0	11.7	12.8	13.2	14.1
Other private hospitals	311.6	288.3	289.0	284.2	293.7
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	1,136.7	1,089.4	1,075.9	1,048.7	1,046.0
Total	1,187.9	1,161.7	1,150.6	1,115.3	1,105.3
Average length of stay (days)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.2	4.2
Public acute hospitals	4.4	4.2	4.0	3.9	3.9
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	52.1	66.3	62.4	63.4	64.4
Private hospitals	3.7	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.1
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Other private hospitals	n.a.	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.5
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	4.2	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.6
Total	4.3	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.8
Average length of stay, excluding same day separations (days)					
Public hospitals ^(b)	7.0	7.1	7.0	6.8	6.9
Public acute hospitals	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.4
Public psychiatric hospitals ^{(c)(g)}	54.4	69.0	69.7	71.4	74.1
Private hospitals	6.4	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	n.a.	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Other private hospitals	n.a.	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.9
Public acute & private hospitals ^(d)	6.5	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.2
Total	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.6	6.6

(a) For 1995–96 to 1999–00 data on separations and patient days for public patients, private patients and other categories of patients in the public and private sector are presented in Table 5.5.

(b) Includes the Department of Veterans' Affairs hospitals.

(c) Public psychiatric hospital data were not included in 1995–96 for Queensland. Victoria was not able to provide patient days data for all separations in 1995–96 and for 407 separations in 1996–97, as leave days could not be identified.

(d) Excludes public psychiatric hospitals.

(e) Figures are rates per 1,000 directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991. For public psychiatric hospitals and private hospitals, rates were derived using populations of the reporting States and Territories only, without adjustment for incomplete reporting.

(f) Separations for which the type of episode of care was reported as acute, or as newborn with qualified patient days, or was not reported. For further details see Chapter 10. Public national cost weights were used for the *Public acute & private hospitals* and *Total* rows. AR-DRG version 4.1 was used for 1999–00, AR-DRG version 4.0/4.1 for 1998–99, AN-DRG version 3.1 for 1996–97 and 1997–98, and version 3.0 for 1995–96.

(g) Caution should be used with average length of stay for public psychiatric hospitals. The figures include a small percentage of long stay patients who affect the average markedly. The median length of stay for Australia in 1999–00 was 7 days and the median length of stay excluding same day separations for Australia was 10 days.

n.a. not available.

Table 4.2: Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, by hospital type, States and Territories, 1999–00

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Separations									
Public hospitals	1,245,814	1,003,609	707,914	360,394	360,020	75,951	60,656	57,840	3,872,198
Public acute hospitals	1,236,593	1,003,089	706,511	357,702	356,428	75,429	60,656	57,840	3,854,248
Public psychiatric hospitals	9,221	520	1,403	2,692	3,592	522	..	..	17,950
Private hospitals ^(a)	604,276	519,838	452,410	215,095	159,794	51,495	22,754	n.a.	2,025,662
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	131,331	42,890	85,594	10,063	8,925	1,333	n.a.	..	280,136
Other private hospitals	472,945	476,948	366,816	205,032	150,869	50,162	22,754	n.a.	1,745,526
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	1,840,869	1,522,927	1,158,921	572,797	516,222	126,924	83,410	57,840	5,879,910
Total	1,850,090	1,523,447	1,160,324	575,489	519,814	127,446	83,410	57,840	5,897,860
Same day separations									
Public hospitals	507,579	500,495	326,432	167,637	168,988	34,393	31,467	29,659	1,766,650
Public acute hospitals	505,500	500,493	326,415	167,590	168,765	34,382	31,467	29,659	1,764,271
Public psychiatric hospitals	2,079	2	17	47	223	11	..	..	2,379
Private hospitals ^(a)	359,181	295,997	261,595	109,470	77,958	23,640	9,616	n.a.	1,137,457
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	128,989	42,890	85,588	10,063	8,925	1,319	n.a.	..	277,774
Other private hospitals	230,192	253,107	176,007	99,407	69,033	22,321	9,616	n.a.	859,683
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	864,681	796,490	588,010	277,060	246,723	58,022	41,083	29,659	2,901,728
Total	866,760	796,492	588,027	277,107	246,946	58,033	41,083	29,659	2,904,107
Same day separations as a % of total									
Public hospitals	40.7	49.9	46.1	46.5	46.9	45.3	51.9	51.3	45.6
Public acute hospitals	40.9	49.9	46.2	46.9	47.3	45.6	51.9	51.3	45.8
Public psychiatric hospitals	22.5	0.4	1.2	1.7	6.2	2.1	..	..	13.3
Private hospitals ^(a)	59.4	56.9	57.8	50.9	48.8	45.9	42.3	n.a.	56.2
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	98.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	98.9	n.a.	..	99.2
Other private hospitals	48.7	53.1	48.0	48.5	45.8	44.5	42.3	n.a.	49.3
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	47.0	52.3	50.7	48.4	47.8	45.7	49.3	51.3	49.3
Total	46.8	52.3	50.7	48.2	47.5	45.5	49.3	51.3	49.2
Separations per 1,000 population^(c)									
Public hospitals	185.5	203.1	198.9	193.9	226.8	155.5	211.1	360.3	197.4
Public acute hospitals	184.0	203.0	198.5	192.5	224.4	154.3	211.1	360.3	196.5
Public psychiatric hospitals	1.5	0.1	0.4	1.4	2.4	1.1	..	..	1.0
Private hospitals ^(a)	88.0	102.4	123.6	114.5	94.8	102.6	79.1	n.a.	101.4
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	19.3	8.5	23.4	5.5	5.1	2.4	n.a.	..	14.1
Other private hospitals	68.7	93.9	100.2	109.1	89.7	100.2	79.1	n.a.	87.3
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	272.0	305.3	322.1	307.0	319.2	257.0	290.2	360.3	297.1
Total	273.5	305.5	322.5	308.5	321.6	258.1	290.2	360.3	298.0

(continued)

Table 4.2 (continued): Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1999–00

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Average cost weight of separations^(d)									
Public hospitals	1.04	0.98	0.98	0.94	0.99	1.07	0.96	0.77	0.99
Public acute hospitals	1.03	0.98	0.98	0.93	0.98	1.07	0.96	0.77	0.99
Public psychiatric hospitals	1.34	2.14	2.08	1.89	2.05	1.86	..	..	1.64
Private hospitals ^(a)	0.95	0.98	0.97	0.96	1.04	1.06	1.13	n.a.	0.98
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	0.57	0.50	0.55	0.56	0.71	0.83	n.a.	..	0.56
Other private hospitals	1.07	1.03	1.07	0.98	1.06	1.07	1.13	n.a.	1.05
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	1.01	0.98	0.97	0.94	1.00	1.07	1.00	0.77	0.99
Total	1.01	0.98	0.97	0.94	1.00	1.07	1.00	0.77	0.99
Patient days									
Public hospitals	5,769,219	3,829,729	3,040,641	1,350,334	1,478,887	356,373	210,410	194,628	16,230,221
Public acute hospitals	5,305,903	3,799,504	2,615,368	1,266,965	1,340,127	341,066	210,410	194,628	15,073,971
Public psychiatric hospitals	463,316	30,225	425,273	83,369	138,760	15,307	..	..	1,156,250
Private hospitals ^(a)	1,745,079	1,645,396	1,510,441	665,353	532,846	174,708	82,002	n.a.	6,355,825
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	131,331	42,890	85,594	10,063	8,925	1,333	n.a.	..	280,136
Other private hospitals	1,613,748	1,602,506	1,424,847	655,290	523,921	173,375	82,002	n.a.	6,075,689
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	7,050,982	5,444,900	4,125,809	1,932,318	1,872,973	515,774	292,412	194,628	21,429,796
Total	7,514,298	5,475,125	4,551,082	2,015,687	2,011,733	531,081	292,412	194,628	22,586,046
Patient days per 1,000 population^(c)									
Public hospitals	823.7	743.0	836.8	721.4	865.8	677.9	760.0	1,291.9	799.6
Public acute hospitals	753.9	736.9	716.0	677.3	781.1	648.7	760.0	1,291.9	740.2
Public psychiatric hospitals	69.8	6.2	120.8	44.1	84.7	29.2	..	..	59.3
Private hospitals ^(a)	246.1	312.2	402.9	353.7	296.4	331.4	299.7	n.a.	307.7
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	19.3	8.5	23.4	5.5	5.1	2.4	n.a.	..	14.1
Other private hospitals	226.8	303.8	379.5	348.2	291.3	328.9	299.7	n.a.	293.7
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	1,000.0	1,049.1	1,118.9	1,030.9	1,077.5	980.1	1,059.7	1,291.9	1,046.0
Total	1,069.8	1,055.3	1,239.7	1,075.1	1,162.2	1,009.3	1,059.7	1,291.9	1,105.3
Average length of stay (days)									
Public hospitals	4.6	3.8	4.3	3.7	4.1	4.7	3.5	3.4	4.2
Public acute hospitals	4.3	3.8	3.7	3.5	3.8	4.5	3.5	3.4	3.9
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(e)	50.2	58.1	303.1	31.0	38.6	29.3	..	..	64.4
Private hospitals ^(a)	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.6	n.a.	3.1
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	n.a.	..	1.0
Other private hospitals	3.4	3.4	3.9	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.6	n.a.	3.5
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.6	4.1	3.5	3.4	3.6
Total	4.1	3.6	3.9	3.5	3.9	4.2	3.5	3.4	3.8

(continued)

Table 4.2 (continued): Summary of separation, same day separation, average cost weight, patient day and average length of stay statistics, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1999-00

	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Average length of stay, excluding same day separations (days)									
Public hospitals	7.1	6.6	7.1	6.1	6.9	7.7	6.1	5.9	6.9
Public acute hospitals	6.6	6.6	6.0	5.8	6.2	7.5	6.1	5.9	6.4
Public psychiatric hospitals ^(e)	64.6	58.3	306.8	31.5	41.1	29.9	..	..	74.1
Private hospitals ^(a)	5.7	6.0	6.5	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.5	n.a.	5.9
Private free-standing day hospital facilities	1.0	..	1.0	..	..	1.0	n.a.	..	1.0
Other private hospitals	5.7	6.0	6.5	5.3	5.6	5.4	5.5	n.a.	5.9
Public acute & private hospitals ^(b)	6.3	6.4	6.2	5.6	6.0	6.6	5.9	5.9	6.2
Total	6.8	6.4	6.9	5.8	6.5	6.8	5.9	5.9	6.6

(a) Includes private psychiatric hospitals. Coverage of private hospitals is incomplete for some States and Territories. See Chapter 1 for details.

(b) Excludes public psychiatric hospitals.

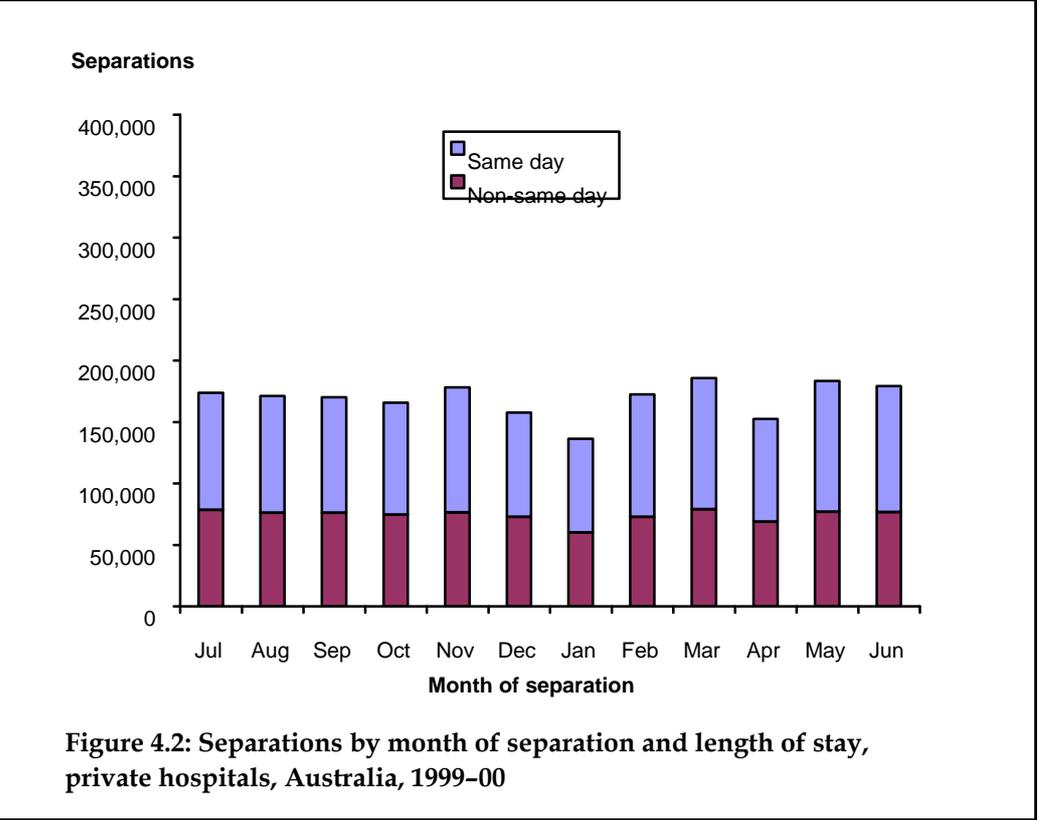
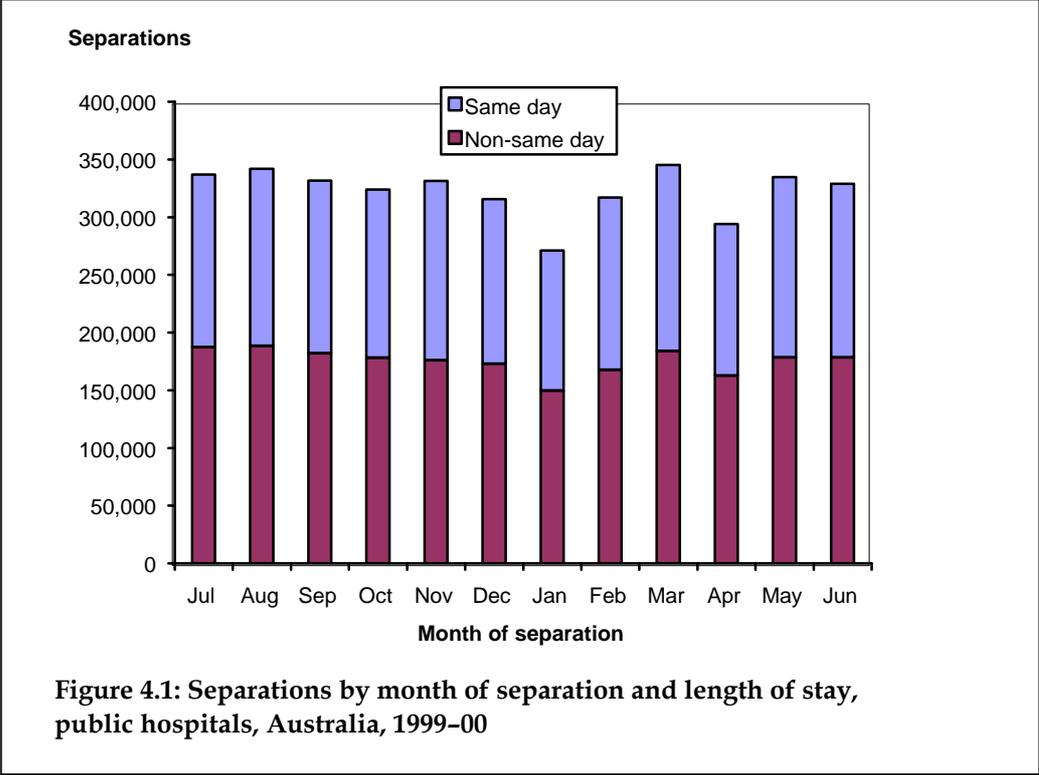
(c) Figures are directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991. In the *Total* column, the rates for private hospitals were derived using populations of the reporting States and Territories only, without adjustment for incomplete reporting.

(d) Separations for which the type of episode of care was reported as acute, or as newborn with qualified patient days, or was not reported. For further details, see Chapter 10. Public national cost weights were used for the *Public acute and private hospitals* and *Total* rows.

(e) Caution should be used with average length of stay for public psychiatric hospitals. The figures include a small percentage of long stay patients who affect the average markedly. The median length of stay for Australia was 7 days and the median length of stay excluding same day separations for Australia was 10 days.

.. not applicable.

n.a. not available.



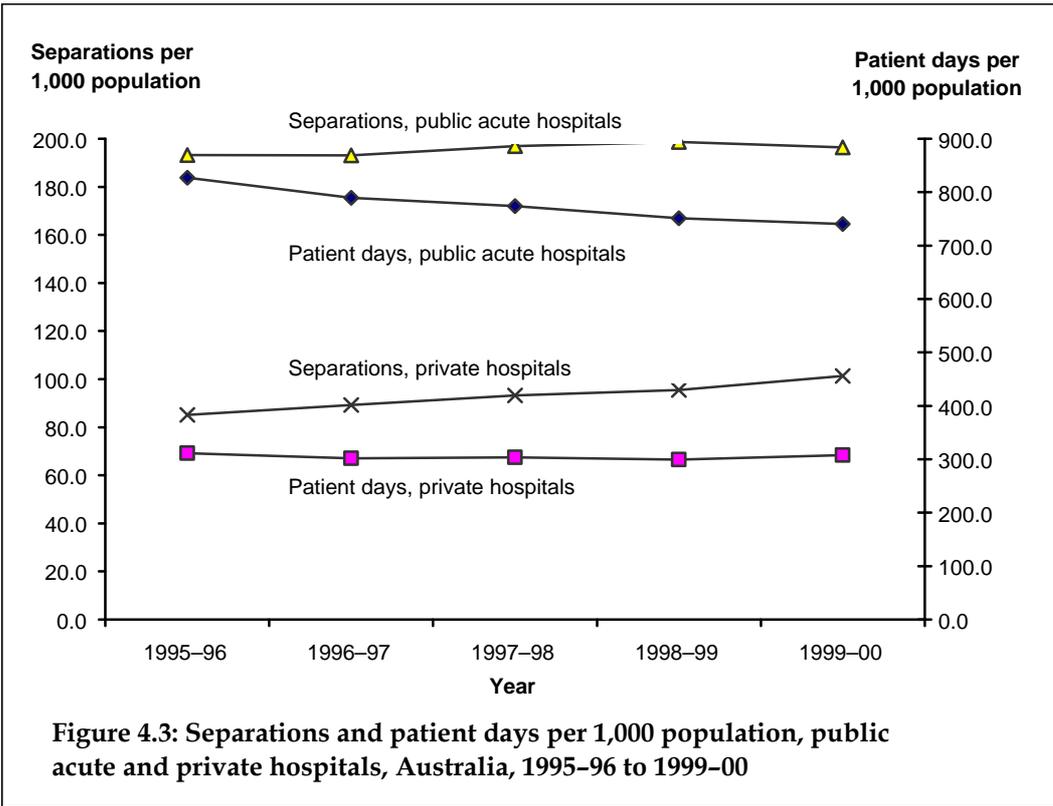


Figure 4.3: Separations and patient days per 1,000 population, public acute and private hospitals, Australia, 1995-96 to 1999-00

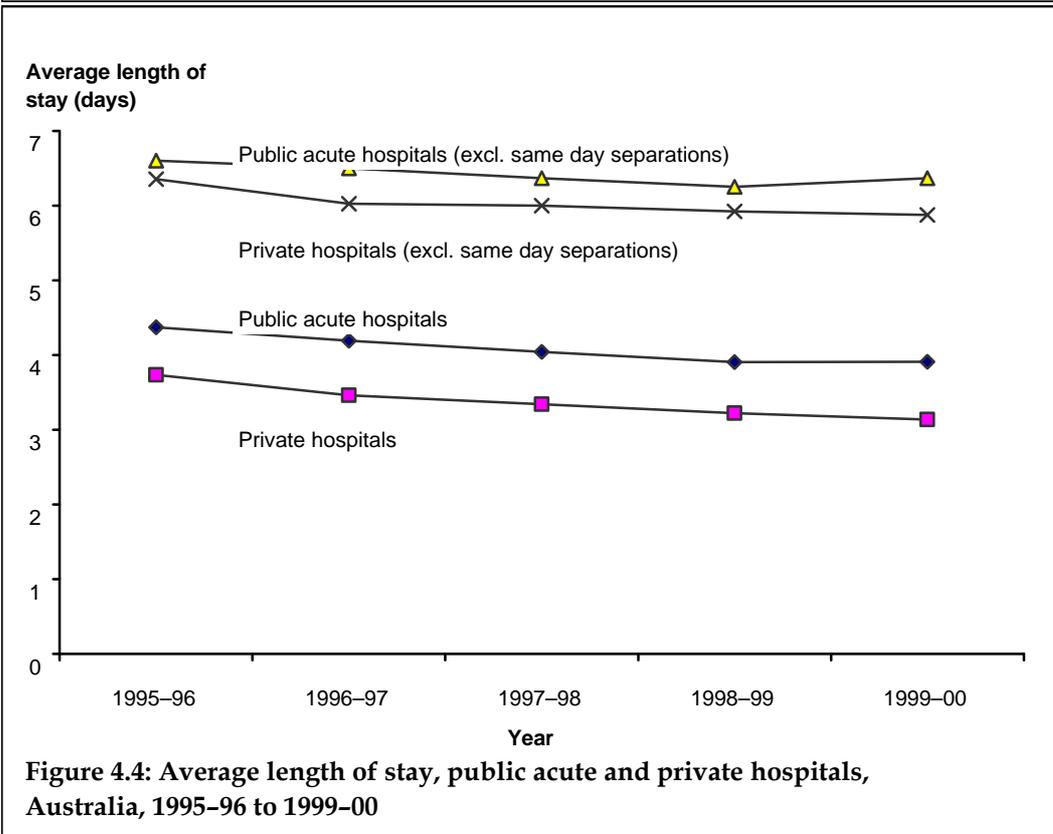


Figure 4.4: Average length of stay, public acute and private hospitals, Australia, 1995-96 to 1999-00

Table 4.3: Non-admitted patient occasions of service, by type of non-admitted patient care, public acute and psychiatric hospitals, States and Territories

Type of non-admitted patient care	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA ^(a)	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total ^(b)
Public acute hospitals									
Accident & emergency	1,608,664	1,117,961	1,146,519	611,305	463,044	91,732	84,825	96,240	5,220,290
Dialysis	..	..	2,274	..	..	..	..	..	2,274
Pathology	1,937,549	672,606	986,134	323,486	..	167,957	30,797	66,293	4,184,822
Radiology & organ imaging	806,403	480,103	808,475	320,821	227,634	78,533	53,305	69,410	2,844,684
Endoscopy & related procedures	..	..	1,342	..	..	..	..	..	1,342
Other medical/surgical/obstetric	6,099,612	1,360,740	2,134,110	517,044	964,997	197,408	164,956	77,497	11,516,364
Mental health	..	857,983	106,632	80,108	18,083	1,069	7,160	..	1,071,035
Alcohol & drug	..	44,211	48,396	..	..	..	..	..	92,607
Dental	..	187,102	416,346	8,799	8,208	1,393	..	..	621,848
Pharmacy	425,282	330,478	763,501	173,394	..	42,003	364	14,401	1,749,423
Allied health	..	999,630	620,430	651,791	264,882	85,105	8,832	13,193	2,643,863
Community health	887,670	503,095	181,869	600,939	..	..	..	..	2,173,573
District nursing	227,960	430,853	58,235	135,350	..	..	..	..	852,398
Other outreach	..	9,250	105,792	117,016	449,895	12,792	14,411	..	709,156
Total services	11,993,140	6,994,012	7,380,055	3,540,053	2,396,743	677,992	364,650	337,034	33,683,679
Group sessions	174,560	55,932	35,211	21,996	180,311	n.a.	5,439	..	473,449
Public psychiatric hospitals									
Emergency & outpatient individual sessions	n.a.	n.a.	12,137	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	12,137
Emergency & outpatient group sessions	n.a.	n.a.	1,824	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	1,824
Outreach/community individual sessions	n.a.	n.a.	68,895	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	68,895
Outreach/community group sessions	n.a.	n.a.	969	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	969
Total services	n.a.	n.a.	83,825	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	..	..	83,825

(a) The count of pathology occasions of service in Western Australia is considerably lower than last year due to a changed method of counting at a major hospital.

(b) For public psychiatric hospitals, includes only those States and Territories for which data are available.

Note: The reliability of non-admitted patient occasions of service data is not good, and in addition significant differences occur between States and Territories due to different counting methods, so the overall comparability

n.a. not available.

.. not applicable.