Inpatient Hospitalizations, Surgeries and Childbirth Indicators in 2013–2014

Inpatient hospitalization volumes and lengths of stay declining over time

In 2013–2014, there were more than 2.9 million acute inpatient hospitalizations in Canada. After adjusting for differences in age, sex and population growth, the hospitalization rate was 7,596 per 100,000 in 2013–2014, down from 7,837 per 100,000 in 2008–2009. The 2013–2014 age-adjusted average length of stay (ALOS) in hospital was 7.0 days, continuing the gradual decline in ALOS by 0.1 days per year over the last 3 years.

The most common reason for hospitalization was giving birth, with an ALOS of 2.3 days. The next most common reasons were respiratory disease (COPD) (7.7 days) and heart attack (5.1 days). Details on the top 5 inpatient hospitalizations are provided in Figure 1.

In 2013–2014, the most common inpatient surgery in Canada was a Caesarean section (C-section), with an ALOS of 3.3 days. The next most common surgical procedures were knee replacements (4.3 days) and fractures (9.3 days). Details on the top 5 inpatient surgeries are provided in Figure 2.

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Information Sheet

CIHI collects administrative, clinical and demographic data from hospitals across Canada that submit information on inpatient, day surgery, emergency and ambulatory care episodes.

Inpatient hospitalization statistics, which include volumes and average lengths of stay by sex, age group and province/territory, are available from 1995–1996 onward in the Inpatient Quick Stats.

Selected childbirth indicators by province/territory and health region are available from 2001–2002 onward in the Childbirth Quick Stats.

Pre-formatted tables on hospitalization rates, top 10 reasons for hospitalizations and surgeries, and in-hospital births are also available via Quick Stats.

Notes
* Figures exclude newborns and include obstetric records.
COPD: Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
ALOS: Average length of stay.
Sources
Hospital Morbidity Database and Ontario Mental Health Reporting System, 2013–2014, Canadian Institute for Health Information.

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Figure 1: Top 5 Reasons for Inpatient Hospitalizations* by Volume and Average Length of Stay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Volume</th>
<th>ALOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving Birth</td>
<td>367,090</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory Disease (COPD)</td>
<td>77,808</td>
<td>7.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Attack</td>
<td>70,054</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart Failure</td>
<td>59,428</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteoarthritis of the Knee</td>
<td>56,444</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes
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Hospital Morbidity Database and Ontario Mental Health Reporting System, 2013–2014, Canadian Institute for Health Information.
Rate of newborns born in hospital declining over time

The rate of babies born in hospital in Canada has been declining gradually over the last several years. In 2013–2014, the rate was 106 per 10,000 population, down from 112 per 10,000 population in 2009–2010.

Preterm birth rates and SGA rates stable over time

In 2013–2014, the rate of preterm babies (born before 37 weeks of gestation) in Canadian hospitals was 8.0%. The rate of single babies born who were small for gestational age (SGA; smaller than 90% of the babies with the same gestational age and sex) was 8.9%. These rates have remained relatively stable since 2006.

Primary C-section rates higher for women 35 and older, epidural rates increasing in Canada

The primary C-section rate is defined as the proportion of women who had a C-section for the first time. Across all provinces, women 35 and older were more likely to have a primary C-section than younger women (22.9% versus 17.2%, respectively). The Canadian epidural rate for vaginal deliveries has increased slightly every year over the last few years, from 53.2% in 2006–2007 to 58.7% in 2013–2014.

More information

For more information, please access the interactive inpatient and childbirth data in CIHI’s Quick Stats. Pre-formatted tables are also available via Quick Stats. These include data on the top 10 reasons for hospitalizations and surgeries, in-hospital births, and standardized hospitalization rates and average lengths of stay.

Feedback and questions are welcome at cad@cihi.ca.