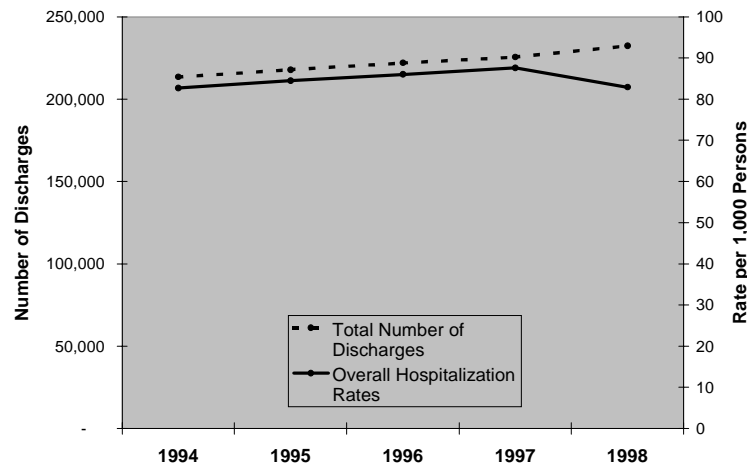


Despite trends toward delivery of many medical care services in ambulatory settings, the hospital remains a central part of the medical care system. Hospital care accounted for 34% of national health expenditures in 1997. This Health Status Update examines trends and patterns in hospital care in Utah from the 1998 Utah Hospital Discharge Database Standard Report and other sources.

- In 1998, 232,379 hospitalizations of Utah residents occurred in Utah hospitals. Of those discharges, 91,817 (40%) were obstetric-related or normal newborns.
- The rate of hospitalization per 1,000 Utah residents decreased in 1998 by 5.3%.
- Hospitalizations resulted in total hospital charges of \$1.8 million in 1998, an increase of 6.7% compared to 1998. (Charges may not reflect the amount collected due to discounted agreements with payers.)

## Trends in Hospital Utilization

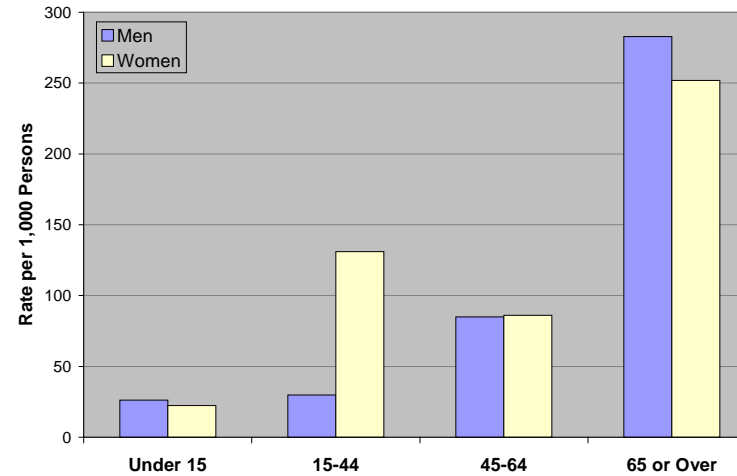
Numbers of hospital discharges per year and the rate of hospital discharges.



Excludes discharges of newborns and non-Utah residents  
Rates have been age and sex adjusted to U.S. 2000 estimated population  
Source: Utah Hospital Discharge Database

## Hospital Utilization by Age and Sex

Hospital discharges per 1,000 persons, Utah 1998.

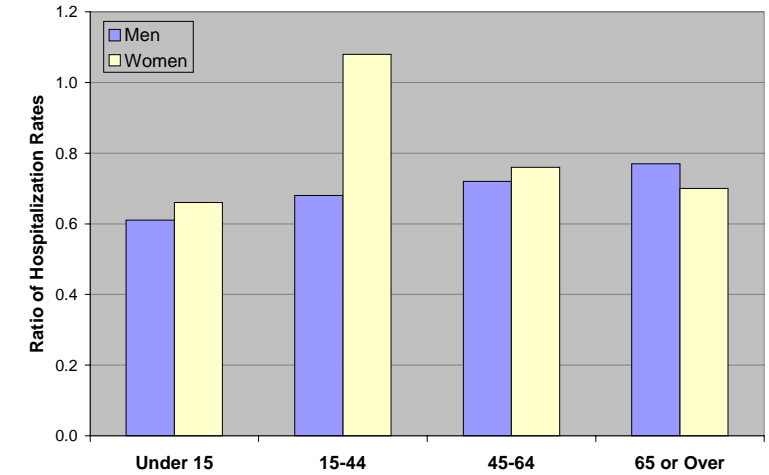


Excludes discharges of newborns and non-Utah residents  
Source: Utah Hospital Discharge Database

- The average length of hospital stay decreased from 4.0 days to 3.44 days between 1994 and 1997, but increased slightly to 3.55 days in 1998.
- Utahns were hospitalized appreciably less often than is true elsewhere in the U.S. Utah hospitalization rates were 61-77% of U.S. rates in all age-gender groups except women age 15-44, where the high rate of childbirth in Utah resulted in Utah women being hospitalized at a higher rate than U.S. women.
- The most important third party payers for Utah hospital discharges were managed care (33.5% of discharges), Medicare (20.5%), Medicaid (9.6%), Blue Cross/Blue Shield (7.5%), and other commercial payers (15.2%). Medicare was payer for 80% of discharges of persons over 65 years of age.
- Examining types of clinical care delivered, pregnancy & childbirth (20.3%) and newborn care (19.8%) accounted for large proportions of discharges, but smaller proportions of

## Hospital Utilization in Utah and U.S.

Ratio of Utah to U.S. Hospitalization Rates by age and sex, Utah 1998 and U.S. 1997.



Excludes discharges of newborns and non-Utah residents  
Sources: Utah Hospital Discharge Database, 1997 National Hospital Discharge Survey

- total charges (8.9 and 8.8%, of charges, respectively). In contrast, diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 10.2% of discharges and 19.2% of charges.
- The most common diagnoses were those related to pregnancy, childbirth, and newborn care. Of the remainder of discharges, common diagnoses included pneumonia, coronary atherosclerosis and other heart disease, and affective disorders. Notably, given the recent concern with medical errors, two common diagnoses were for complications of care.
- The most common procedures performed during hospitalization were those related to pregnancy, childbirth, and newborn care. Of the remainder of discharges, common procedures included hysterectomy, diagnostic cardiac catheterization, percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty, and arthroplasty of the knee.

## Common Hospital Diagnoses

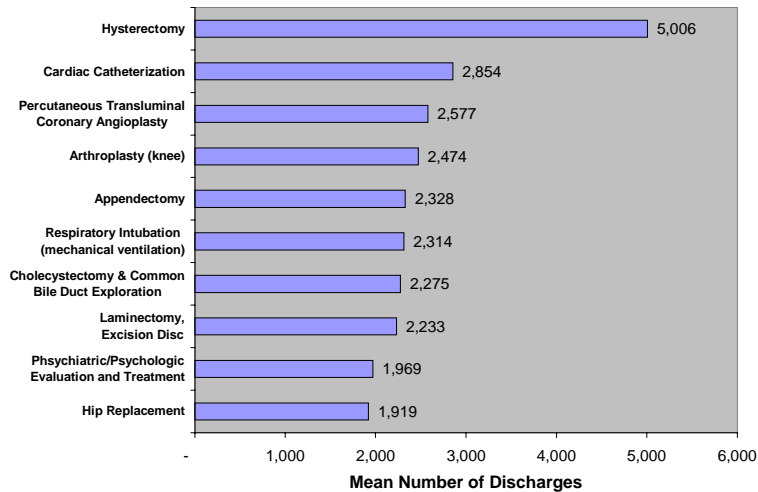
Numbers of discharges per year, mean length of hospital stay, and mean charges for the twelve most common diagnoses (not obstetric or newborn care related), Utah 1996-1998.

Diagnoses	Number of Discharges	Mean LOS	Mean Charges
Pneumonia (not TB)	5,903	5.2	\$ 8,839
Coronary atherosclerosis & other heart ds	4,922	3.9	\$ 18,313
Affective disorders	4,408	7.7	\$ 7,637
Spondylosis, disc disease, back problems	3,763	2.8	\$ 8,601
Osteoarthritis	3,378	4.3	\$ 15,535
Acute myocardial infarction	2,926	4.9	\$ 19,484
Congestive heart failure (not hypertensive)	2,610	5.0	\$ 9,380
Complications of device, implant, or graft	2,569	5.0	\$ 15,179
Biliary tract disease	2,523	3.5	\$ 8,712
Acute cerebrovascular disease	2,404	6.0	\$ 10,790
Appendicitis	2,296	2.8	\$ 6,078
Complications of surgical procedure or medical care	2,284	5.3	\$ 10,038

Data classified by procedure using the Clinical Classification System developed by Agency for Health Care Quality Research.  
Source: Utah Hospital Discharge Database

## Common Hospital Procedures

Mean numbers of discharges per year for ten most common non-obstetric/newborn care procedures, Utah 1996-1998.



Data classified by procedure using the Clinical Classification System developed by Agency for Health Care Quality and Research.  
Source: Utah Hospital Discharge Database

Hospitals remain an important source of health care services and account for a substantial proportion of health care expenditures. Except for childbirth-related care, Utahns are hospitalized less often than is true elsewhere in the United States. That difference is at least in part because Utahns are healthier. The Utah Inpatient Hospital Discharge Database is an important source of information on hospital care that can guide policy decisions and quality improvement efforts.

## April Utah Health Status Update

Additional information about this topic can be obtained from the Office of Health Care Statistics, Utah Department of Health, P. O. Box 144004, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4004, (801) 538-7048, FAX (801) 538-9916, Internet [www.healthdata.state.ut.us](http://www.healthdata.state.ut.us); or the Office of Public Health Assessment, Utah Department of Health, P. O. Box 142101, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2101, (801) 538-6108, FAX (801) 536-0947 or (801) 538-9346, email: [phdata@doh.state.ut.us](mailto:phdata@doh.state.ut.us).

Center for Health Data  
Utah Department of Health  
P O Box 142101  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2101

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