

Standard documentation Meta information

(Definitions, comments, methods, quality)

on

Hospital Discharges Statistics

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Executive Summary

The hospital discharge statistics cover all inpatient stays in Austrian hospitals (according to the Hospital and Cures Act (KAKuG)). The statistics cover inpatient stays, patient-related, hospital-related and medical characteristics, both for full inpatient stays and for zero-night stays (day cases).

The legal basis for hospital discharge statistics is the Federal Act on Documentation in Health Care, which obliges hospitals to record administrative and medical data of patients. The documentation of diagnoses and medical services is carried out by following detailed coding rules of the DRG system (Diagnosis-Related Groups of medical procedures), which is published by the Federal Ministry of Health and adapted annually. The documentation of diagnoses and procedures in hospitals, on which the hospital discharge statistics are based, serves primarily as a basis for the financial payment of services provided to inpatients.

Data from hospitals financed by state funds are delivered via the respective state health fund. Data from hospitals financed by private funds are delivered directly to the Federal Ministry of Health. Prior to this, the data undergo a multi-stage review process in the hospitals, in the state health funds and in the Federal Ministry, in which they are checked for completeness and plausibility. Finally, the ministry delivers the data to Statistics Austria, where they pass through a final quality assurance process, which is done through micro and macro plausibility checks.

Data provision for a reporting year takes place annually in autumn of the following year. It refers to hospital stays with a discharge date in the given reporting year regardless of the admission date or the length of stay. This data delivery is supplemented by an annual updated list of information containing description of individual hospitals during the reporting year, which is provided by the hospital statistics of the Federal Ministry of Health.

Statistics Austria compile the statistics on hospital discharges on the basis of the diagnosis, service documentation and the hospital statistics, which are published annually (as a rule) in November of the year following the year of discharge. The hospital discharge statistics can be evaluated according to three (crossable) dimensions: (1) Number of hospital stays (2) Duration of hospital stays (3) Number of individual medical services provided during hospital stays. Differentiation is possible according to the following characteristics:

- stay-related characteristics: case ID, admission and discharge date, discharge type, days of stay, function code (service area, group and type)
- patient-related characteristics: sex, age group, nationality, place of residence (municipality, health care region, state of residence)
- hospital-related characteristics: hospital number, care sector (acute care, rehabilitation, long-term care, convalescence/prevention), location (state, health care region), type of legal entity, fund affiliation, public law, non-profit status
- medical characteristics: Diagnosis (ICD four-digit code), code and number of individual medical services provided

Statistics Austria has been compiling hospital discharge statistics in their current form since 1989 (the 1989 was subsequently reported in 1990). With the introduction of performance-based hospital financing (DRG-system on diagnosis related groups of medical procedures) in the 1997 reporting year, the statistics were expanded to include data on individual medical services (billable procedures above a certain cost threshold as well as high-frequency services). Since 2001, the main diagnoses of hospital discharges have been recorded according to the "International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems" (ICD-10) in the version adapted for Austria by the Federal Ministry of Health.

Hospital Discharges Statistics – Main Key Points

Subject matter	Discharges from inpatient hospital stays (full inpatient stays, zero-night stays) in all Austrian hospitals (according to KAKuG – Hospital and Cures Act) per calendar year with stay-, patient- and hospital-related as well as medical characteristics).
Population	Annual hospital discharges (including deaths) by inpatient and zero-night stays in Austrian hospitals since 1989 (about 110 million records; as of 2022)
Type of statistics	Secondary statistics
Data sources/Survey techniques	Diagnosis and service documentation of Austrian hospitals as published by the Federal Ministry of Health (excerpt from the DIAG database), hospital statistics of the Federal Ministry of Health
Reference period or due day	Calendar year of discharge
Periodicity	Annual
Survey participation (in case of a survey)	Hospitals are legally obligated to document diagnoses and services; the Federal Ministry of Health is legally obligated to transmit the data to Statistics Austria.
Main legal acts	Federal Act on Documentation in Health Care, Federal Law Gazette No. 745/1996 of December 27, 1996; last amendment Federal Law Gazette No. 37/2018 Matter Data Protection Amendment Act 2018
Most detailed regional breakdown	Federal state (place of residence and location of hospital); deeper breakdowns are possible in the context of special evaluations (place of residence: municipality, residential district, location of hospital: health care region)
Availability of results	Final data: 31.12. of the reporting year + 11 months
Other	Case-related statistics, as there is no direct or indirect person reference