

Massachusetts Acute Care Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data— Quarterly Update

October 2019 through June 2025 (Preliminary)

Introduction

The Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) provides analyses of health system utilization to inform payers, providers, policymakers, and the public. In December 2020, CHIA first published [Massachusetts Acute Care Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data \(FFY 2016-2019\)](#). This report provided information and analyses of hospital inpatient utilization patterns in the period leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic and presented measures of inpatient utilization overall and by hospital, patient, and discharge characteristics.

Building upon that report, CHIA developed a quarterly update series, which includes an [interactive dashboard](#) and an accompanying [databook](#). These quarterly updates use interim data to present analyses on a quarterly or monthly basis at a statewide and hospital level. In this quarterly update, data on statewide discharges and average length of stay by hospital system for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2025 reflects the changes since Steward Health Care sold and transferred control of 5 of its acute care hospitals in Massachusetts beginning in FFY 2025 (October 2024). More information is available in the [technical appendix](#). Data from FFY 2016-2019 (October 2015 through September 2019) is not displayed in the dashboard but can still be found in the [legacy databook](#).

Key Findings From the November 2025 Update

- Inpatient average length of stay (ALOS) continues to hold steady at approximately 5 and a half days statewide. Discharges to home (approximately 55 percent to 60 percent of total discharges by quarter) have had the shortest length of stay for the past 5 federal fiscal years at approximately 4 days.
- Among discharges with any behavioral health diagnosis, children ages 2-17 have consistently had the highest ALOS, ranging from 9 to 14 days. ALOS for non-obstetric adult discharges (age 18 and up) ranged from 6 to 8 days and obstetric ALOS (any age) ranged from 3 to 4 days.

The data in the quarterly updates is preliminary. The primary purpose of this series is to provide timely patterns and trends on key inpatient utilization measures. The dashboard and databook are updated at each release with more complete information as it becomes available and as CHIA continues to work with providers and payers to process and confirm data submissions through the annual data collection process.

About this Update

This quarterly update includes new data from October 2019 to June 2025. This update is organized in the following 9 sections:

- Total Acute Care Volume
- Statewide Utilization
- Statewide Utilization by ZIP Code
- Utilization by Hospital
- Discharge Characteristics
- Diagnoses and Procedures
- Chronic Conditions
- Behavioral Health
- COVID-19

Total Acute Care Volume

This section shows the total volume of acute care hospital visits and discharges in Massachusetts by Case Mix categorization. Discharges/visits are categorized by inpatient stay, outpatient observation, and emergency department treat and release.

Statewide Utilization

The utilization section includes the number of inpatient discharges and average length of stay, in days. Measures are shown for all hospital inpatient discharges across Massachusetts, as well as by hospital cohort, obstetric and age group, intensive care use, age group, sex, race/ethnicity, primary payer type, discharge setting, and hospital system.

Statewide Utilization by ZIP Code

This map shows the rate of discharges per 100 residents in percentiles by ZIP Code as well as the locations of Massachusetts acute care hospitals. Measures are shown for all hospital inpatient discharges across Massachusetts on a yearly basis. This section does not include preliminary data.

Utilization by Hospital

This section presents hospital-level inpatient utilization measures on a quarterly basis for all acute care hospitals in Massachusetts. The measures included are total discharges and average length of stay. The databook includes tabs for hospital utilization by age group, obstetric and age group, sex, race/ethnicity, primary payer type, discharge setting, and behavioral health-related discharges by discharge setting.

Discharge Characteristics

This section shows statewide utilization patterns by age group, obstetric and age group, sex, race/ethnicity, primary payer type, discharge setting, intensive care use, and intensive care days.

Diagnoses and Procedures

This section presents common primary diagnoses and principal procedures associated with discharges by obstetric and age group at a statewide level. Additionally, the average length of stay for each primary diagnosis category is provided.

Chronic Conditions

This section shows statewide discharges by chronic conditions, including total discharges, percent of total discharges, and average length of stay within each obstetric and age group.

Behavioral Health

This section shows total discharges, percent of total discharges, and average length of stay for inpatient hospital discharges associated with any behavioral health condition and by specific diagnosis category. These estimates are presented for all discharges statewide and by obstetric and age group.

COVID-19

This section shows statewide utilization patterns for discharges associated and not associated with COVID-19 by discharge characteristics, including age group, obstetric and age group, sex, race/ethnicity, primary payer type, discharge setting, intensive care use, and intensive care days. The measures included are total discharges, percent of total discharges, and average length of stay.

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