HELLENIC REPUBLIC

HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

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SURVEY ON INPATIENT HOSPITAL CARE, 2023

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces the results of the **Inpatient Hospital Care Survey** of the year 2023.

The Inpatient Hospital Care Survey is a census-based survey. The data are collected annually from public and private hospitals in Greece in order to monitor the morbidity of the population, at a national and regional level. The survey aims to record the number of discharged patients who spent at least one night in the hospital, their demographic characteristics and the diagnosis of the disease for which they were hospitalized, according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD10-GrM).

In 2023, data was collected from 260 hospitals and clinics. 35.0% (91) of these were in the Region of Attiki and 23.8% (62) in the Regions of Makedonia and Thraki. As regards their legal form 48.5% (126) of them were public hospitals/clinics.

In 2023, the number of discharged patients amounted to 1,446,040, of which 724,034 (50.1%) were males and 722,006 (49.9%) females. 1,025,650 (70.9%) of the inpatients were hospitalized in public hospitals/clinics.

As for the age distribution of discharged patients, the largest number was observed in the age group 60 to 79 years with 507,237 (35.1%) patients, of whom 288,998 (57.0%) were males and 218,239 (43.0%) females (Table 1).

Table 1. Discharged patients by age group and gender, 2023

Age groups	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%
Total	1,446,040	100.0	724,034	100.0	722,006	100.00
0 – 5 years	75,826	5.2	42,310	5.8	33,516	4.6
6 – 19 years	77,330	5.3	41,738	5.8	35,592	4.9
20 – 39 years	198,942	13.8	66,370	9.2	132,572	18.4
40 – 59 years	304,433	21.1	153,227	21.2	151,206	20.9
60 – 79 years	507,237	35.1	288,998	39.9	218,239	30.2
80 years or over	278,194	19.2	129,174	17.8	149,020	20.6
Not reported	4,078	0.3	2,217	0.3	1,861	0.3

According to the survey data, 84.4% of the total number of patients discharged from hospitals were cured or made a recovery or improvement in their health status, 11.1% had unchanged health status or worsened and 4.3% had passed away.

The total number of hospitalizations in 2023 amounted to 2,951,372, of which 1,505,332 (51.0%) were day-care cases.

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Causes of morbidity

The most common causes of morbidity were "Diseases of the circulatory system" accounting for 187,666 (13.0%) incidents, followed by "Diseases of the digestive system" with 161,223 (11.1%) and "Neoplasms" with 155,549 (10.8%).

"Diseases of the circulatory system" was the main cause of morbidity for male patients with 117,100 (16.2%) incidents, followed by "Diseases of the digestive system" with 92,552 (12.8%) and "Neoplasms" with 82,578 (11.4%) incidents. Female patients were hospitalized due to "Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium" with 84,819 (11.7%) incidents, "Diseases of the genitourinary system" with 74,992 (10.4%) and "Neoplasms" with 72,971 (10.1%) incidents (Table 2).
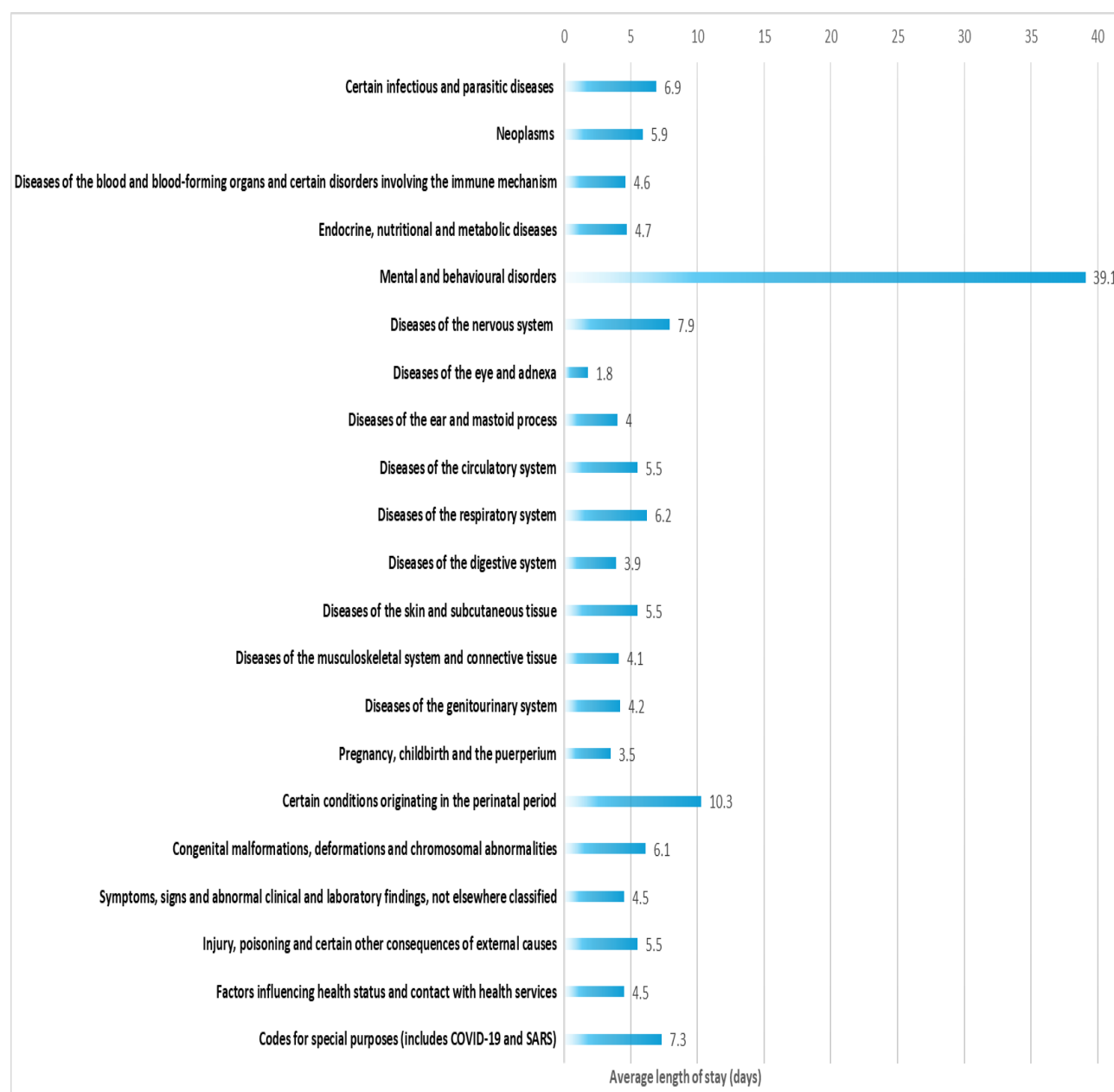
Table 2. Total hospital discharges by disease category and gender, 2023

Category of diseases	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%
Total	**1,446,040**	**100.0**	**724,034**	**100.0**	**722,006**	**100.0**
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	35,120	2.4	17,899	2.5	17,221	2.4
Neoplasms	155,549	10.8	82,578	11.4	72,971	10.1
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	27,696	1.9	12,868	1.8	14,828	2.1
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	27,851	1.9	10,518	1.5	17,333	2.4
Mental and behavioural disorders	36,869	2.6	20,081	2.8	16,788	2.3
Diseases of the nervous system	37,316	2.6	19,771	2.7	17,545	2.4
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	28,513	2.0	13,793	1.9	14,720	2.0
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	5,379	0.4	2,803	0.4	2,576	0.4
Diseases of the circulatory system	187,666	13.0	117,100	16.2	70,566	9.8
Diseases of the respiratory system	135,511	9.4	75,746	10.5	59,765	8.3
Diseases of the digestive system	161,223	11.1	92,552	12.8	68,671	9.5
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	16,745	1.2	9,395	1.3	7,350	1.0
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	61,213	4.2	24,966	3.4	36,247	5.0
Diseases of the genitourinary system	131,297	9.1	56,305	7.8	74,992	10.4
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	84,819	5.9	-	-	84,819	11.7
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	14,697	1.0	8,047	1.1	6,650	0.9
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	5,200	0.4	3,208	0.4	1,992	0.3
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	137,531	9.5	74,670	10.3	62,861	8.7
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	113,136	7.8	58,820	8.1	54,316	7.5
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	20,432	1.4	10,914	1.5	9,518	1.3
Codes for special purposes (includes COVID-19 and SARS)	22,277	1.5	12,000	1.7	10,277	1.4

Average Length of Hospital Stay

Figure 1 shows the average length of hospital stay in days by disease category (ICD10-GrM). The longest average length of hospital stay in 2023 was observed in the category "Mental and behavioural disorders" (39.1 days), followed by "Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period" (10.3 days) and "Diseases of the nervous system" (7.9 days).

Figure 1. Average length[1] of hospital stay by disease category, 2023

[1] Patients with over 1-year hospital stay are also included

Surgical procedures

In 2023, a total of 480,294 operations were performed on 1,446,040 hospitalized patients. Most of these were performed for "Diseases of the digestive system", representing 19.1% of the total number of operations, followed by "Diseases of the genitourinary system" with 13.7%, "Neoplasms" with 12.7%, "Injuries, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes" with 12.0% and "Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium" with 11.0% (Table 3).

For male patients, the three categories with the highest number of operations were "Diseases of the digestive system" (25.6%), "Neoplasms" (13.3%) and "Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes" (13.2%). For female patients, the three categories with the highest number of operations were "Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium" (19.9%), "Diseases of the genitourinary system" (15.7%) and "Diseases of the digestive system" (13.9%).

Table 3. Surgical operations of patients discharged by disease category and gender, 2023

Category of diseases	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%
Total	**480,294**	**100.0**	**213,722**	**100.0**	**266,572**	**100.0**
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	311	0.1	178	0.1	133	0.0
Neoplasms	60,809	12.7	28,407	13.3	32,402	12.2
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	24	0.0	11	0.0	13	0.0
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	8,184	1.7	2,395	1.1	5,789	2.2
Diseases of the nervous system	2,651	0.6	1,242	0.6	1,409	0.5
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	19,981	4.2	9,622	4.5	10,359	3.9
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	1,351	0.3	677	0.3	674	0.3
Diseases of the circulatory system	35,932	7.5	24,135	11.3	11,797	4.4
Diseases of the respiratory system	24,048	5.0	14,425	6.7	9,623	3.6
Diseases of the digestive system	91,934	19.1	54,805	25.6	37,129	13.9
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	5,403	1.1	3,455	1.6	1,948	0.7
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	40,057	8.3	15,249	7.1	24,808	9.3
Diseases of the genitourinary system	65,639	13.7	23,877	11.2	41,762	15.7
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	52,919	11.0	-	-	52,919	19.9
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	27	0.0	17	0.0	10	0.0
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	2,807	0.6	1,753	0.8	1,054	0.4
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	4,917	1.0	2,712	1.3	2,205	0.8
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	57,633	12.0	28,295	13.2	29,338	11.0
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	5,469	1.1	2,344	1.1	3,125	1.2
Codes for special purposes (includes COVID-19 and SARS)	198	0.0	123	0.1	75	0.0

One-day cases

One-day clinic (ODC) patients amounted to 1,505,332, of which 752,021 (50.0%) were males and 753,311 (50.0%) females. The disease category (ICD10-GrM) with the largest share of ODC patients was "Neoplasms" (37.8%), followed by "Diseases of the eye and adnexa" with 10.1%, "Diseases of the genitourinary system" with 8.2% and "Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism" with 7.9% (Table 4).

Table 4. Discharges of day care patients by disease category and gender, 2023

Category of diseases	Total	%	Males	%	Females	%
Total	1,505,332	100.0	752,021	100.0	753,311	100.0
Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	6,147	0.4	3,280	0.4	2,867	0.4
Neoplasms	568,546	37.8	297,107	39.5	271,439	36.0
Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism	118,436	7.9	53,041	7.1	65,395	8.7
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	21,991	1.5	11,311	1.5	10,680	1.4
Mental and behavioural disorders	9,230	0.6	4,994	0.7	4,236	0.6
Diseases of the nervous system	39,812	2.6	15,219	2.0	24,593	3.3
Diseases of the eye and adnexa	152,671	10.1	70,656	9.4	82,015	10.9
Diseases of the ear and mastoid process	2,440	0.2	1,319	0.2	1,121	0.1
Diseases of the circulatory system	61,676	4.1	37,485	5.0	24,191	3.2
Diseases of the respiratory system	20,117	1.3	11,613	1.5	8,504	1.1
Diseases of the digestive system	79,659	5.3	45,526	6.1	34,133	4.5
Diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue	24,381	1.6	13,633	1.8	10,748	1.4
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	54,133	3.6	21,506	2.9	32,627	4.3
Diseases of the genitourinary system	123,913	8.2	51,073	6.8	72,840	9.7
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	16,760	1.1	-	-	16,760	2.2
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	1,065	0.1	628	0.1	437	0.1
Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	2,805	0.2	1,738	0.2	1,067	0.1
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified	71,896	4.8	40,776	5.4	31,120	4.1
Injury, poisoning and certain other consequences of external causes	28,348	1.9	16,611	2.2	11,737	1.6
Factors influencing health status and contact with health services	98,204	6.5	52,806	7.0	45,398	6.0
Codes for special purposes (includes COVID-19 and SARS)	3,102	0.2	1,699	0.2	1,403	0.2

Inpatient characteristics

The average age of adult discharged patients who were hospitalized for at least one day in 2023 was 62.6 years (males 64.2 and females 61.0 years). In 2023 discharged patients over 18 years old were 1,295,403.

Table 5 presents the average age of discharged patients over 18 years of age for the main disease categories in terms of number of patients, broken down by gender.

Table 5. Average age of patients discharged aged 18 years and over by disease category and gender, 2023

Category of diseases	Total	Average age	Males	Average age	Females	Average age
Diseases of the circulatory system	185,240	70.4	115,560	68.5	69,680	73.5
Neoplasms	150,937	64.5	79,967	67.0	70,970	61.8
Diseases of the digestive system	150,509	61.4	86,539	61.5	63,970	61.3
Diseases of the genitourinary system	124,431	62.0	52,170	67.2	72,261	58.2
Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere	112,565	64.9	61,933	64.7	50,632	65.2
Diseases of the respiratory system	107,256	66.1	59,901	65.0	47,355	67.6
Injury, poisoning and certain other	99,381	62.3	49,916	55.4	49,465	69.3
Pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	82,664	32.7	-	-	82,664	32.7

Regarding the inpatient's place of residence, most patients resided in the Region of Attiki (29.0%), followed by the Regions of Kentriki Makedonia (16.5%) and Thessalia (7.5%) (Table 6).

Table 6. Discharges by NUTS 2 Region of inpatient's permanent residence, 2023

Region of residence	Total	%
Total	**1,446,040**	**100.0**
Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	71,562	4.9
Kentriki Makedonia	237,906	16.5
Dytiki Makedonia	33,117	2.3
Ipeiros	43,987	3.0
Thessalia	108,155	7.5
Sterea Ellada	49,434	3.4
Ionia Nisia	23,078	1.6
Dytiki Ellada	67,486	4.7
Peloponnisos	63,696	4.4
Attiki	418,843	29.0
Voreio Aigaio	24,435	1.7
Notio Aigaio	34,070	2.4
Kriti	84,701	5.9
Out of Greece	8,971	0.6
Not reported	176,599	12.2

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Inpatient Hospital Care Survey (Hospital discharges) The Inpatient Hospital Care Survey (Hospital Discharges) is conducted on an annual basis to meet national needs and in implementation of European Regulations. The main purpose of the survey is to provide users with reliable and comprehensive information on the morbidity of the population. The questionnaires are filled in every month by the administrative departments of the hospitals in electronic format and are transmitted to ELSTAT.

Legal framework The Inpatient Hospital Care Survey is conducted by virtue of the Circular 795/27.11.1959 by the Ministers of Coordination and Social Welfare on the "Collection of statistical data on incoming and outcoming patients of all hospitals in Greece". Moreover, it is conducted in accordance with the Regulations (EC) 1338/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council and (EU) 2022/2294 of the European Commission.

Reference Period The year in which the patient was discharged from the hospital.

Statistical population The survey unit is the hospital (public hospital, Legal Entities of Private and Public Law, private clinics) and the patient who was hospitalized. The survey refers to all patients who were hospitalized overnight at least once in the hospitals/clinics of Greece.

From 2013 onwards, day care hospitalization incidents (one day clinics), surgeries and other medical activities requiring short term hospitalization (only for some hours) of patients, without an overnight stay in the hospital and may refer to several medical specialties , are also recorded.

Definitions **Hospital/clinic**: a health care institution where health care treatment is provided to patients by specialized medical or non-medical personnel.

Hospitals, depending on their legal form, are classified as Legal Entities under Public Law, Legal Entities under Private Law, and private hospitals. Depending on the medical cases hospitalized, hospitals are distinguished into General, Mixed and Specialized (depending on the Medical Specialties: cancer, dermatological, cardiological, gynecological, psychiatric, orthopedics, pathological, pediatrics, surgical and otolaryngology hospitals).

Patient: the person who has been hospitalized for at least one day in the hospital. The survey refers to patients discharged from hospitals and the data is recorded monthly based on date of discharge.

Category of the disease: classification of the disease is according to the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems Manual (ICD10-GrM). The main diagnosed disease for which the patient was hospitalized is recorded, regardless of whether a secondary diagnosis exists.

Number of operations: the number of surgical procedures which the patient underwent during the recorded hospitalization.

Outcome of the hospitalization: the outcome of the treatment which may be a full recovery, health improvement, unchanged/stable condition, worsening of patients' condition, or death.
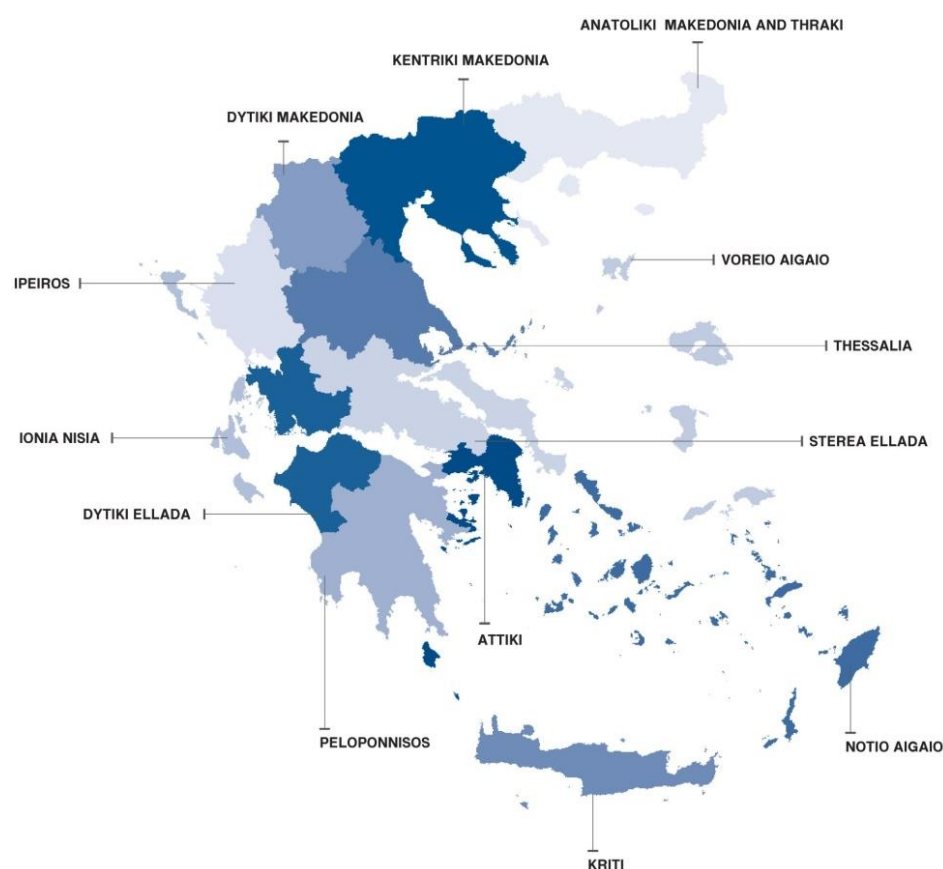
Days of hospitalization: the number of days during which the patient was hospitalized starting from the day the patient was admitted to hospital until the day the patient was discharged.

Methodology, classifications

Until 2012, the data processing was conducted on a sample representing 12.5% of all hospital discharges. The total number of discharges in 2012 also included the one-day operations.

Since 2013, data processing has been carried out on all discharged patients. The diseases are classified in accordance with the International Classification of Disease and Related Health Problems, ICD10-GrM.

The geographical classification is based on the nomenclature of territorial units (NUTS II).

Map of 13 NUTS 2 Regions of Greece

References More information on the Inpatient Hospital Care Survey on can be found on the website of ELSTAT, at the link:
https://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SHE12/-