TRENDSWATCH
CHARTBOOK 2008
Trends Affecting Hospitals and Health Systems
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CHAPTER 3
Utilization and Volume

Source: Avalere Health analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 2006, for community hospitals.
Chart 3.2: Total Inpatient Days in Community Hospitals, 1981 – 2006

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Chart 3.5: Average Length of Stay in Community Hospitals, 1981 – 2006

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Chart 3.6: Average Length of Stay in Community Hospitals by State, 2006

Source: Avalere Health analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 2006, for community hospitals.
Chart 3.7: Emergency Department Visits and Emergency Departments\(^{(1)}\) in Community Hospitals, 1991 – 2006

Source: Avalere Health analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 2006, for community hospitals.\(^{(1)}\)

\(^{(1)}\) Defined as hospitals reporting ED visits in 2005 AHA Annual Survey.
Chart 3.8: Hospital Emergency Department Visits per 1,000 Persons, 1991 – 2006

Source: Avalere Health analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 2006, for community hospitals.
Chart 3.9: Percent of Hospitals Reporting Emergency Department Capacity Issues by Type of Hospital, 2007

- **Urban Hospitals**: 30% ED is "At" Capacity, 35% ED is "Over" Capacity
- **Rural Hospitals**: 20% ED is "At" Capacity, 11% ED is "Over" Capacity
- **Teaching Hospitals**: 27% ED is "At" Capacity, 46% ED is "Over" Capacity
- **Non-teaching Hospitals**: 24% ED is "At" Capacity, 18% ED is "Over" Capacity
- **All Hospitals**: 25% ED is "At" Capacity, 22% ED is "Over" Capacity

Source: American Hospital Association 2007 Survey of Hospital Leaders.
Chart 3.10: Percent of Hospitals Reporting Time on Ambulance Diversion in Last 12 Months

- Urban: 56%
- Rural: 17%
- Teaching: 64%
- Non-teaching: 30%
- All Hospitals: 36%

Source: American Hospital Association 2007 Survey of Hospital Leaders.
Chart 3.11: Conditions Hospitals Reported as Number One Factor Contributing to Ambulance Diversions, January 2007

- Lack of Staffed Critical Care Beds: 30%
- ED Overcrowded: 29%
- Lack of General Acute Care Beds: 17%
- Staff Shortages: 12%
- Lack of Specialty Physician Coverage: 7%
- Lack of Psychiatric Beds: 4%

Source: American Hospital Association 2007 Survey of Hospital Leaders.
Chart 3.12: Total Hospital Outpatient Visits in Community Hospitals, 1981 – 2006

Source: Avalere Health analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 2006, for community hospitals.

(1) Due to a restructuring of this survey question in 1982, some respondents reported occasions of service rather than visits, resulting in an artificially large number of outpatient visits. In 1983, the survey reverted back to the original question, which remains the same today. To smooth the trend line to better reflect what was the actual number of visits, the 1982 data point in the chart is an average of the 1981 and 1983 figures. The number collected from the survey is reported in the appendix table but should be used with caution.
Chart 3.13: Hospital Outpatient Visits per 1,000 Persons, 1981 – 2006


(1) Due to a restructuring of this survey question in 1982, some respondents reported occasions of service rather than visits, resulting in an artificially large number of outpatient visits. In 1983, the survey reverted back to the original question, which remains the same today. To smooth the trend line to better reflect what was the actual number of visits, the 1982 data point in the chart is an average of the 1981 and 1983 figures. The number collected from the survey is reported in the appendix table but should be used with caution.

Source: Avalere Health analysis of American Hospital Association Annual Survey data, 2006, for community hospitals.