

HEALTH SERVICES SERIES

Number 10

# **Australian hospital statistics 1995–96**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

AIHW Catalogue no. HSE 3

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This is the tenth publication of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's Health Services Series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Publications Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, or via the Institute's web-site at <http://www.aihw.gov.au>.

### **National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication data**

Australian hospital statistics 1995–96

ISSN 1036-613X  
ISBN 0 642 24738 2

1. Hospitals—Australia—Statistics. I. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (Series: Health services series; no. 10).

362.110994021

### **Suggested citation**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 1997. Australian hospital statistics 1995–96. AIHW cat. no. HSE 3. Canberra: AIHW (Health Services Series no. 10).

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Published by Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Printed by National Capital Printing

# Foreword

*Australian Hospital Statistics 1995–96* marks a decade of national hospital statistics reports published by the Institute. The first of these reports, for 1985–86, provided the foundation for major national efforts to improve Australian statistics on hospitals and their patients. This report in turn reflects these efforts, as it is based on agreed national definitions, and a much expanded scope for the patient-level (hospital morbidity) data compared with a decade ago.

This report also reflects the more recent efforts of the National Health Information Management Group, the providers of the data and the Institute to improve the timeliness of national hospital statistics. For this, the Institute thanks the health authorities of the States and Territories and the Department of Veterans' Affairs for supply of the data and assistance in the preparation of this report within a year of the data collection period.

The presentation of the patient-level data in this report also marks a first for Australia. This is the first publication in which national patient-level data have been presented according to the reported principal diagnosis and principal procedure (using the ICD-9-CM classification) and also using the Australian National Diagnosis Related Group classification. Until now, national hospital morbidity statistics have only been published using one or the other of these classifications—in previous Australian hospital statistics reports of the Institute and the Department of Health and Family Services' *Australian Casemix Report on Hospital Activity*, respectively.

I want to pay special tribute to the staff of the Institute, especially those acknowledged by name, but also the many others who have contributed to the major step forward that this report represents. We are committed to improving community discussion and decision making by providing authoritative and timely information.

We hope that this report will be useful for a wide range of members of the Australian community. Its style and content is much changed compared with previous Institute hospital statistics reports. We would therefore welcome comments and suggestions for future reports in the series.

Richard Madden  
Director  
June 1997



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# Acknowledgements

This report would not have been possible without the valued cooperation and effort of the data providers—the health authorities of the States and Territories and the Department of Veterans' Affairs. The Institute thanks them for their timely supply of the data, validation of the Institute's databases and assistance in preparation of this report.

Within the Institute, the report was prepared by Melanie Brown, Mark Cooper-Stanbury, Günter Foedinger, Jenny Hargreaves, Peter Marlton, Lynelle Moon and Deborah Schofield. Sean Aitkin, Rod Hall, Matthew Nalty and Michael Paxton managed the databases and extracted data, Amanda Nobbs coordinated the publication process, and many other Institute staff provided comments and advice.

The project was managed by Jenny Hargreaves and Mark Cooper-Stanbury.

# Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
AGPS	Australian Government Publishing Service
AHMAC	Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
ALOS	Average length of stay
AN-DRG	Australian National Diagnosis Related Group
CC	Complications and comorbidities
Conn	Connective
Def	Deficiency
diag	Diagnosis
dis	Diseases
DHSH	Department of Human Services and Health
DRG	Diagnosis related group
dsr	Disorder
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
ECMO	Extracorporeal membrane oxygenation
ICD-9-CM	International Classification of Diseases, 9th Revision, Clinical Modification
IFRAC	Inpatient (admitted patient) fraction
Mal	Malignant
MDC	Major Diagnostic Category
n.a.	Not available
nec	Not elsewhere classified
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
op	Operation
proc(s)	Procedure(s)
re	Related to
sub	Subcutaneous
W	With
W/O	Without