

6 Demographic profile for admitted patients

Introduction

This chapter presents a demographic profile of admitted patients who separated from hospital during 1997–98.

Data on the sex of each patient was reported to the National Hospital Morbidity Database as male, female, indeterminate or not stated/inadequately described. The 92 separations for patients who were not reported as male or female are included in person totals in the tables in this chapter.

Most States and Territories supplied the date of birth of the patient for the database, in which case the Institute calculated the age of the patient by subtracting the date of birth from the date of admission. The exceptions were Victoria, Queensland and Tasmania which supplied the age in years or days for each patient.

The data on Indigenous status were supplied by most data providers categorised as:

- Indigenous—Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin
- Indigenous—Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin
- Indigenous—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin
- Not Indigenous—not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin
- Not stated.

Differing interpretations among data providers required that an additional category, *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified* be created to cater for definitional variations between jurisdictions including the use of the superseded version of this data element.

Country of birth details were supplied by all States and Territories. Providers supplied this information coded to the Australian Bureau of Statistics's Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics.

Age-standardised rates calculated for separations for Indigenous persons (Table 6.7) and by country of birth (Table 6.8) used population estimates for 30 June 1997, because 31 December (mid-year) estimates are not available for the Indigenous and overseas-born populations. Thus while standardised rates within this chapter can be directly compared, there will be small discrepancies between them and standardised rates reported in Chapter 4 and

Chapter 5, which are based on 31 December 1997 estimates (see Appendix 3 for details).

Sex

There were more separations for females than males in the child-bearing age groups (15 to 44 years), but also in the 45 to 54 years and the 75 years and over age groups (Table 6.1).

Females accounted for higher proportions of separations than males, 53% of total separations in public hospitals (2,002,914) (Table 6.2) and 56% in private hospitals (1,002,958) (Table 6.3). Separations per 1,000 population were higher for females than males in age groups from 15 to 54 years for both hospital sectors; however, this was reversed in the age groups over 55 years and those under 15 years (Figures 6.1 and 6.2).

Females also accounted for more patient days (12,282,437) than males (10,282,728) (Table 6.4). In public hospitals, they accounted for 52% of patient days, and for more patient days in age groups from 15 to 44 years and in the 75 years and over age groups. In private hospitals, they accounted for 60% (3,588,289) of all patient days. Similar patterns were evident in the number of patient days reported per 1,000 population in the child-bearing age groups (15 to 44 years) in both public and private hospitals (Figures 6.3 and 6.4).

Age

Separations peaked in two age groups in public hospitals. The first was in the 25 to 34 years age group, the age group most commonly reported for female patients. The second was the 65 to 74 years age group, which was most commonly reported for males. The pattern of separations per 1,000 population also had two peaks, for the under 1 year age group and the over 75 years age group. The highest numbers of patient days were reported for females aged 25 to 34 years and in the age groups over 65 years, and for males in age groups over 55 years. Average length of stay was highest for the under 1 year and the 75 years and over age groups (Figure 6.5).

In private hospitals, the main peak for separations was in the 65 to 74 years age group, reflecting the most commonly reported age group for male patients. The separation rates were highest for the older age group. Patients in the 75 years and over age group accounted for the most patient days, and had the highest number of separations per 1,000 population. As for public hospitals, average length of stay was longest for the very young and for older patients (Figure 6.6).

In both sectors combined, the population in age groups over 65 years accounted for a high proportion of admitted patient activity. This population, which comprised 12% of the total Australian population (2,260,170), accounted for 1.7 million separations (31% of the total) and 10.4 million patient days (46%). There were 763 separations per 1,000 population for this age group compared with an overall rate of 299 per 1,000 for the total population. The average length of stay for these patients was 6.0 days, compared with 4.1 days for all patients.

Indigenous status

Table 6.7 presents the data reported on Indigenous status by hospital sector and State and Territory. It also includes the age-standardised separation rates for Indigenous patients per 1,000 Indigenous population, calculated using the Australian Bureau of Statistics experimental projections of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population for June 1997 (Appendix Table A4.2).

There were 151,462 separations for patients reported as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, mainly in New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Overall, on an age-standardised basis, there were 540 separations for Indigenous patients reported per 1,000 Indigenous population for Australia. This was markedly higher than the corresponding figure for the overall population of 291 per 1,000.

The Northern Territory reported the highest number of Indigenous separations per 1,000 Indigenous population (904 per 1,000), even though its private hospital was not included. Western Australia and South Australia reported the next highest rates (785 and 703 per 1,000 respectively), ahead of Queensland and New South Wales (543 and 398 per 1,000 population, respectively). Tasmania reported a very low Indigenous separation rate, likely to reflect low levels of identification.

Figure 6.7 presents separation rates per 1,000 population by reported Indigenous status and age group and sex. Indigenous status categories included as 'Indigenous' are *Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin, Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin* and *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified*.

The rates for both Indigenous males and females were markedly higher than those for the whole population in all age groups above 34 years. Indigenous females in the 55 to 64 age group recorded the highest rate overall.

This variation in the number of Indigenous separations per 1,000 Indigenous population could indicate either that, among the States and Territories, there is variation in the proportion of Indigenous persons who are identified as such in the morbidity data collections and/or in the total population, and/or there is variation in the hospitalisation rates for Indigenous persons. Victoria was unable to supply Indigenous status data for private hospitals and the Victorian Department of Human Services has flagged the potential for under-identification of Indigenous separations in the data provided for public hospitals.

A study was recently undertaken collaboratively between the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Institute to identify methods of assessing the quality of Indigenous identification in hospitals (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Welfare Information Unit, in press). This study indicated that the quality of Indigenous identification in Australian hospitals may vary widely, with results from the 12 hospitals involved in the project ranging from 55% to 100% completeness of identification for Indigenous persons. Data on Indigenous status contained in this chapter should therefore be interpreted cautiously.

The National Health Information Management Group has endorsed a program under which each jurisdiction will act to improve Indigenous identification, with national resource backing, and quality will again be assessed in 2001.

Country of birth

Australian-born patients accounted for 75% (4,168,492) of total separations with little variation between the public (74%) and private sectors (76%) (Table 6.8). The proportion of total separations from public hospitals was higher for patients born overseas (69%, 966,295) than for patients born in Australia (67%, 2,803,803).

The age-standardised separation rate for Australian-born patients was higher (301 per 1,000) than that for the overseas-born population (231 per 1,000).

Table 6.1: Separations by age group and sex, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1997-98

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(a)	Total
Females	Under 1	20,370	13,230	11,356	4,902	4,767	1,206	1,384	1,377	58,592
	1-4	24,439	14,915	15,316	7,581	6,937	1,541	1,139	1,182	73,050
	5-14	31,593	21,360	19,660	9,850	8,972	2,345	1,328	959	96,067
	15-24	93,783	69,047	59,670	29,826	26,527	7,295	3,891	4,146	294,185
	25-34	169,062	138,444	98,819	50,717	44,634	12,609	7,549	6,224	528,058
	35-44	125,454	102,060	74,913	39,380	33,240	9,522	5,864	4,920	395,353
	45-54	112,554	96,109	71,246	33,931	32,141	9,510	4,827	4,234	364,552
	55-64	107,522	87,380	62,347	29,311	28,472	7,282	4,664	3,758	330,736
	65-74	138,194	105,342	74,399	32,534	36,593	9,453	4,757	1,465	402,737
	75 and over	162,129	123,351	80,568	35,985	45,824	10,309	3,680	672	462,518
Not reported	17	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	24	
<i>Total</i>		<i>985,117</i>	<i>771,242</i>	<i>568,294</i>	<i>274,017</i>	<i>268,107</i>	<i>71,072</i>	<i>39,083</i>	<i>28,940</i>	<i>3,005,872</i>
Males	Under 1	28,918	19,513	14,969	7,190	7,006	1,590	1,657	1,619	82,462
	1-4	37,955	23,563	22,017	10,744	10,237	2,081	1,518	1,586	109,701
	5-14	46,864	28,891	26,996	12,988	11,587	2,947	1,889	1,340	133,502
	15-24	56,099	41,283	38,507	16,345	14,861	3,766	3,107	1,652	175,620
	25-34	69,365	53,451	44,427	24,281	19,904	5,427	2,994	2,731	222,580
	35-44	83,631	65,783	54,470	26,502	24,085	6,462	4,635	4,625	270,193
	45-54	106,149	82,600	68,432	31,030	29,557	8,195	5,328	3,838	335,129
	55-64	115,939	99,264	74,391	31,543	30,548	8,822	5,532	3,221	369,260
	65-74	156,048	128,586	87,774	39,339	40,898	11,488	5,771	2,191	472,095
	75 and over	131,007	98,867	73,146	32,736	37,412	9,528	3,231	636	386,563
Not reported	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	
<i>Total</i>		<i>831,976</i>	<i>641,803</i>	<i>505,129</i>	<i>232,698</i>	<i>226,095</i>	<i>60,306</i>	<i>35,662</i>	<i>23,441</i>	<i>2,557,110</i>
Persons ^(b)	Under 1	49,289	32,746	26,325	12,094	11,773	2,796	3,042	2,998	141,063
	1-4	62,394	38,478	37,333	18,325	17,174	3,622	2,657	2,771	182,754
	5-14	78,458	50,251	46,656	22,838	20,559	5,292	3,217	2,300	229,571
	15-24	149,892	110,330	98,177	46,171	41,388	11,061	6,998	5,799	469,816
	25-34	238,435	191,895	143,246	75,000	64,538	18,037	10,543	8,965	750,659
	35-44	209,087	167,843	129,383	65,883	57,325	15,984	10,499	9,546	665,550
	45-54	218,716	178,709	139,678	64,961	61,698	17,710	10,155	8,073	699,700
	55-64	223,466	186,644	136,738	60,855	59,020	16,106	10,196	6,979	700,004
	65-74	294,251	233,928	162,173	71,873	77,491	20,941	10,528	3,656	874,841
	75 and over	293,142	222,218	153,714	68,721	83,236	19,837	6,911	1,308	849,087
Not reported	18	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	29	
Total separations		1,817,148	1,413,048	1,073,423	506,721	494,202	131,386	74,746	52,400	5,563,074

(a) Public hospitals only in the Northern Territory

(b) Includes separations for which sex was not reported as male or female.

Table 6.2: Separations by age group and sex, public hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	18,213	11,221	9,797	4,006	4,380	711	724	1,377	50,429
	1–4	21,387	12,569	12,529	6,213	5,937	1,151	1,009	1,182	61,977
	5–14	25,636	16,128	15,136	7,590	7,287	1,537	1,093	959	75,366
	15–24	69,650	51,273	46,758	21,280	21,431	4,892	3,147	4,146	222,577
	25–34	118,654	96,493	66,422	34,182	34,059	7,506	5,670	6,224	369,210
	35–44	79,017	62,602	44,954	25,112	22,272	5,196	4,121	4,920	248,194
	45–54	66,257	53,800	39,136	20,109	18,854	5,015	3,328	4,234	210,733
	55–64	69,614	52,939	35,537	18,793	17,960	4,038	3,566	3,758	206,205
	65–74	94,701	64,557	40,894	22,535	23,865	5,620	3,718	1,465	257,355
	75 and over	117,988	75,691	44,306	24,955	28,739	5,737	2,772	672	300,860
	Not reported	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	8
<i>Total</i>		<i>681,118</i>	<i>497,277</i>	<i>355,469</i>	<i>184,775</i>	<i>184,784</i>	<i>41,403</i>	<i>29,148</i>	<i>28,940</i>	<i>2,002,914</i>
Males	Under 1	25,586	16,362	12,609	5,916	6,380	964	919	1,619	70,355
	1–4	32,779	19,718	17,849	8,768	8,758	1,453	1,303	1,586	92,214
	5–14	39,815	22,865	21,397	10,276	9,687	1,915	1,548	1,340	108,843
	15–24	41,599	27,943	29,459	11,190	10,458	2,569	2,436	1,652	127,306
	25–34	50,372	37,465	33,919	18,172	14,884	3,946	2,457	2,731	163,946
	35–44	56,557	43,170	38,479	18,871	17,101	4,221	3,871	4,625	186,895
	45–54	66,933	50,877	41,854	19,821	19,037	4,687	4,245	3,838	211,292
	55–64	77,202	65,174	46,375	21,060	20,839	5,814	4,445	3,221	244,130
	65–74	108,680	85,736	51,233	27,299	28,261	7,444	4,530	2,191	315,374
	75 and over	92,155	62,257	36,702	20,212	26,593	5,965	2,273	636	246,793
	Not reported	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	5
<i>Total</i>		<i>591,679</i>	<i>431,569</i>	<i>329,876</i>	<i>161,585</i>	<i>161,998</i>	<i>38,978</i>	<i>28,027</i>	<i>23,441</i>	<i>1,767,153</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	43,799	27,584	22,406	9,922	10,760	1,675	1,643	2,998	120,787
	1–4	54,166	32,287	30,378	14,981	14,695	2,604	2,312	2,771	154,194
	5–14	65,451	38,993	36,533	17,866	16,974	3,452	2,641	2,300	184,210
	15–24	111,249	79,216	76,217	32,470	31,889	7,461	5,583	5,799	349,884
	25–34	169,026	133,958	100,341	52,356	48,943	11,453	8,127	8,965	533,169
	35–44	135,574	105,772	83,433	43,984	39,373	9,417	7,992	9,546	435,091
	45–54	133,190	104,677	80,990	39,930	37,891	9,707	7,573	8,073	422,031
	55–64	146,816	118,113	81,912	39,853	38,799	9,854	8,011	6,979	450,337
	65–74	203,381	150,293	92,127	49,834	52,126	13,064	8,248	3,656	572,729
	75 and over	210,143	137,948	81,008	45,167	55,332	11,702	5,045	1,308	547,653
	Not reported	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	13
Total separations		1,272,797	928,847	685,345	346,363	346,782	80,389	57,175	52,400	3,770,098

(a) Includes separations for which sex was not reported as male or female.

Table 6.3: Separations by age group and sex, private hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	2,157	2,009	1,559	896	387	495	660	n.a.	8,163
	1–4	3,052	2,346	2,787	1,368	1,000	390	130	n.a.	11,073
	5–14	5,957	5,232	4,524	2,260	1,685	808	235	n.a.	20,701
	15–24	24,133	17,774	12,912	8,546	5,096	2,403	744	n.a.	71,608
	25–34	50,408	41,951	32,397	16,535	10,575	5,103	1,879	n.a.	158,848
	35–44	46,437	39,458	29,959	14,268	10,968	4,326	1,743	n.a.	147,159
	45–54	46,297	42,309	32,110	13,822	13,287	4,495	1,499	n.a.	153,819
	55–64	37,908	34,441	26,810	10,518	10,512	3,244	1,098	n.a.	124,531
	65–74	43,493	40,785	33,505	9,999	12,728	3,833	1,039	n.a.	145,382
	75 and over	44,141	47,660	36,262	11,030	17,085	4,572	908	n.a.	161,658
	<i>Total</i>	<i>303,999</i>	<i>273,965</i>	<i>212,825</i>	<i>89,242</i>	<i>83,323</i>	<i>29,669</i>	<i>9,935</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1,002,958</i>
Males	Under 1	3,332	3,151	2,360	1,274	626	626	738	n.a.	12,107
	1–4	5,176	3,845	4,168	1,976	1,479	628	215	n.a.	17,487
	5–14	7,049	6,026	5,599	2,712	1,900	1,032	341	n.a.	24,659
	15–24	14,500	13,340	9,048	5,155	4,403	1,197	671	n.a.	48,314
	25–34	18,993	15,986	10,508	6,109	5,020	1,481	537	n.a.	58,634
	35–44	27,074	22,613	15,991	7,631	6,984	2,241	764	n.a.	83,298
	45–54	39,216	31,723	26,578	11,209	10,520	3,508	1,083	n.a.	123,837
	55–64	38,737	34,090	28,016	10,483	9,709	3,008	1,087	n.a.	125,130
	65–74	47,368	42,850	36,541	12,040	12,637	4,044	1,241	n.a.	156,721
	75 and over	38,852	36,610	36,444	12,524	10,819	3,563	958	n.a.	139,770
	<i>Total</i>	<i>240,297</i>	<i>210,234</i>	<i>175,253</i>	<i>71,113</i>	<i>64,097</i>	<i>21,328</i>	<i>7,635</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>789,957</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	5,490	5,162	3,919	2,172	1,013	1,121	1,399	n.a.	20,276
	1–4	8,228	6,191	6,955	3,344	2,479	1,018	345	n.a.	28,560
	5–14	13,007	11,258	10,123	4,972	3,585	1,840	576	n.a.	45,361
	15–24	38,643	31,114	21,960	13,701	9,499	3,600	1,415	n.a.	119,932
	25–34	69,409	57,937	42,905	22,644	15,595	6,584	2,416	n.a.	217,490
	35–44	73,513	62,071	45,950	21,899	17,952	6,567	2,507	n.a.	230,459
	45–54	85,526	74,032	58,688	25,031	23,807	8,003	2,582	n.a.	277,669
	55–64	76,650	68,531	54,826	21,002	20,221	6,252	2,185	n.a.	249,667
	65–74	90,870	83,635	70,046	22,039	25,365	7,877	2,280	n.a.	302,112
	75 and over	82,999	84,270	72,706	23,554	27,904	8,135	1,866	n.a.	301,434
	Total separations	544,351	484,201	388,078	160,358	147,420	50,997	17,571	n.a.	1,792,976

(a) Includes separations for which sex was not reported as male or female.

n.a. not available.

Table 6.4: Patient days by age group and sex, all hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT ^(a)	Total
Females	Under 1	121,333	79,032	61,881	28,742	27,491	6,458	9,074	10,171	344,182
	1–4	48,189	25,683	27,772	15,131	12,525	2,562	2,149	5,994	140,005
	5–14	70,033	44,240	39,843	22,352	17,774	4,692	2,926	4,023	205,883
	15–24	253,320	174,468	155,039	83,379	65,084	20,559	11,010	14,111	776,970
	25–34	543,734	413,816	304,091	165,671	134,200	39,248	25,737	18,653	1,645,150
	35–44	381,548	286,151	236,696	119,840	101,650	28,866	18,696	13,056	1,186,503
	45–54	345,909	267,789	224,551	106,324	97,555	28,585	16,261	10,496	1,097,470
	55–64	369,881	281,571	244,113	96,274	95,697	30,353	22,186	8,339	1,148,414
	65–74	642,307	470,895	345,882	152,957	175,348	57,020	24,016	5,432	1,873,857
	75 and over	1,332,574	1,009,901	668,533	305,773	413,223	92,063	36,222	5,350	3,863,639
Not reported	37	309	0	0	0	0	0	18	364	
	Total	4,108,865	3,053,855	2,308,401	1,096,443	1,140,547	310,406	168,277	95,643	12,282,437
Males	Under 1	144,469	103,496	73,618	37,800	32,620	6,895	11,283	11,240	421,421
	1–4	71,513	40,101	38,919	20,684	17,159	3,522	3,156	7,097	202,151
	5–14	92,008	57,128	80,868	28,261	22,431	5,879	4,063	5,057	295,695
	15–24	200,247	119,203	191,420	54,036	46,589	10,831	11,069	7,160	640,555
	25–34	287,948	160,938	193,777	76,838	59,312	21,081	8,835	10,214	818,943
	35–44	265,084	185,545	197,173	77,190	69,381	38,227	15,538	13,731	861,869
	45–54	359,388	237,943	238,930	100,547	90,520	25,238	15,121	11,253	1,078,940
	55–64	471,976	303,041	269,512	110,003	104,360	29,805	19,022	10,874	1,318,593
	65–74	735,254	509,770	388,066	161,572	180,765	57,459	27,809	9,877	2,070,572
	75 and over	871,334	641,601	483,756	219,923	259,947	68,629	23,932	4,814	2,573,936
Not reported	18	15	0	0	0	0	0	20	53	
	Total	3,499,239	2,358,781	2,156,039	886,854	883,084	267,566	139,828	91,337	10,282,728
Persons ^(b)	Under 1	265,807	182,539	135,499	66,545	60,111	13,353	20,362	21,419	765,635
	1–4	119,702	65,784	66,691	35,815	29,684	6,084	5,305	13,095	342,160
	5–14	162,062	101,368	120,711	50,613	40,205	10,571	6,989	9,081	501,600
	15–24	453,577	293,671	346,459	137,415	111,673	31,390	22,079	21,272	1,417,536
	25–34	831,690	574,754	497,868	242,520	193,512	60,330	34,572	28,887	2,464,133
	35–44	646,634	471,696	433,869	197,031	171,031	67,093	34,234	26,788	2,048,376
	45–54	705,310	505,732	463,481	206,871	188,075	53,828	31,382	21,750	2,176,429
	55–64	841,878	584,612	513,625	206,278	200,057	60,160	41,208	19,213	2,467,031
	65–74	1,377,570	980,665	733,948	314,529	356,113	114,479	51,825	15,309	3,944,438
	75 and over	2,203,934	1,651,502	1,152,289	525,696	673,170	160,692	60,154	10,164	6,437,601
Not reported	55	324	0	0	0	0	0	38	417	
	Total patient days	7,608,219	5,412,647	4,464,440	1,983,313	2,023,631	577,980	308,110	187,016	22,565,356

(a) Public hospitals only in the Northern Territory.

(b) Includes patient days for which sex was not reported as male or female.

Table 6.5: Patient days by age group and sex, public hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98

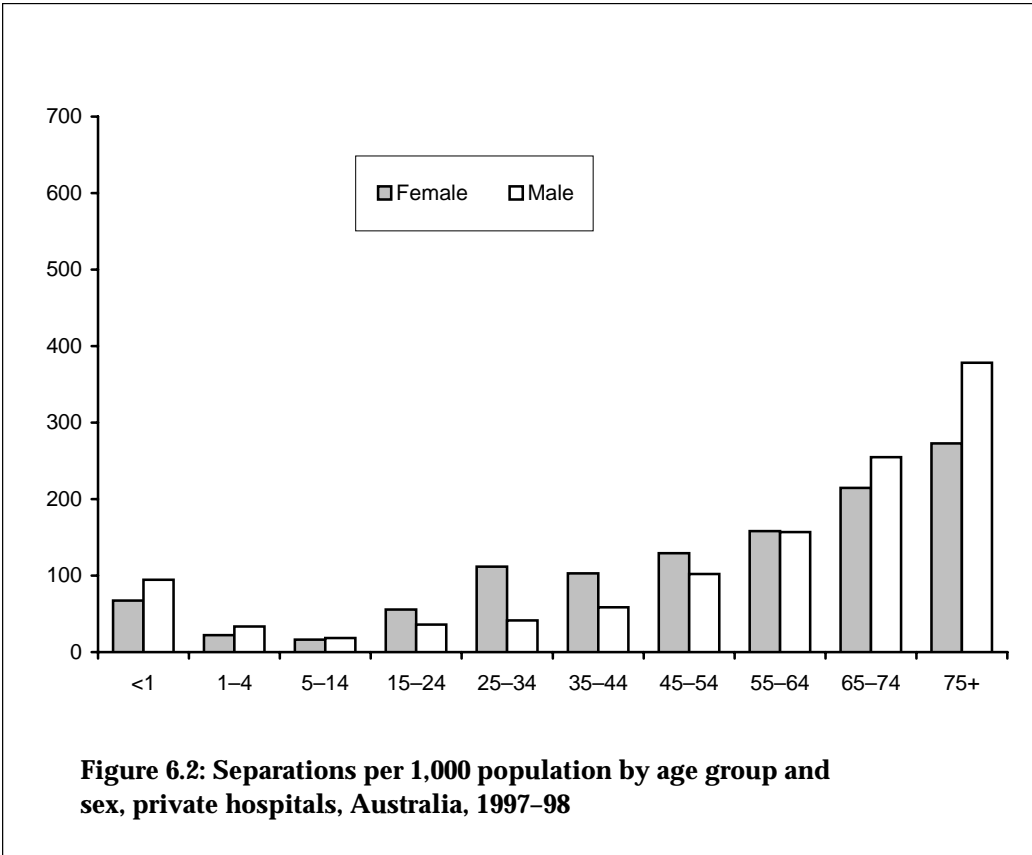
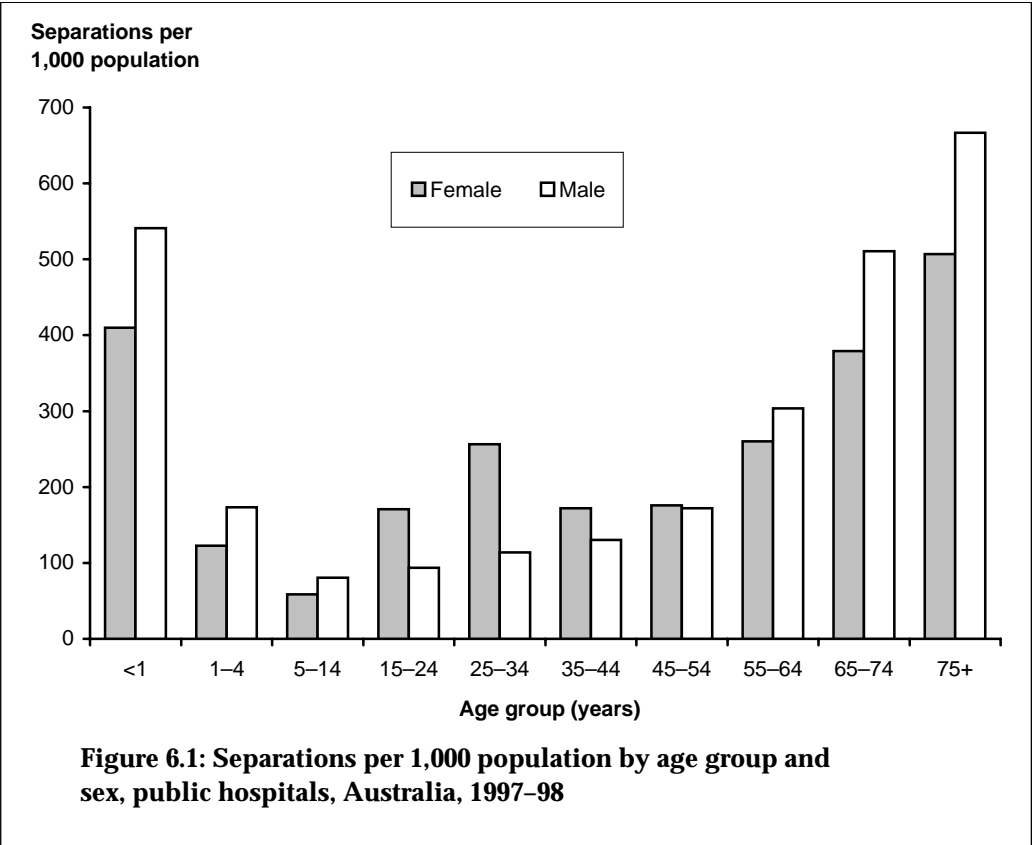
Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	99,416	69,205	51,977	23,621	25,612	4,164	5,291	10,171	289,457
	1–4	43,970	22,893	23,877	13,426	11,410	2,004	2,018	5,994	125,592
	5–14	57,807	34,959	33,126	19,369	15,502	3,327	2,636	4,023	170,749
	15–24	208,225	134,380	125,873	67,323	53,860	14,922	9,487	14,111	628,181
	25–34	399,124	276,274	201,875	111,361	97,726	23,042	18,105	18,653	1,146,160
	35–44	268,074	177,174	156,034	80,009	67,457	16,120	12,751	13,056	790,675
	45–54	234,674	157,255	143,471	69,931	58,613	15,499	11,619	10,496	701,558
	55–64	267,807	180,426	170,199	65,272	61,007	19,139	18,341	8,339	790,530
	65–74	489,553	311,301	216,353	111,184	118,870	38,967	18,987	5,432	1,310,647
	75 and over	1,066,911	662,837	398,002	229,838	286,489	61,347	29,496	5,350	2,740,270
	Not reported	2	309	0	0	0	0	0	18	329
<i>Total</i>		<i>3,135,563</i>	<i>2,027,013</i>	<i>1,520,787</i>	<i>791,334</i>	<i>796,546</i>	<i>198,531</i>	<i>128,731</i>	<i>95,643</i>	<i>8,694,148</i>
Males	Under 1	128,242	90,747	61,662	31,832	30,319	4,343	7,198	11,240	365,583
	1–4	64,392	35,548	33,394	18,188	15,540	2,732	2,933	7,097	179,824
	5–14	79,855	45,036	72,626	24,774	19,951	4,205	3,673	5,057	255,177
	15–24	175,560	91,404	174,291	45,563	38,061	8,416	10,034	7,160	550,489
	25–34	252,224	120,330	173,207	65,306	49,661	17,982	7,904	10,214	696,828
	35–44	213,862	138,006	163,151	62,007	53,917	32,993	13,974	13,731	691,641
	45–54	274,117	165,420	173,645	75,563	65,338	16,116	12,425	11,253	793,877
	55–64	374,446	216,218	196,317	81,876	76,905	20,912	15,430	10,874	992,978
	65–74	580,883	360,979	250,083	115,074	137,215	41,719	23,002	9,877	1,518,832
	75 and over	687,921	437,745	270,916	149,148	203,419	49,039	17,940	4,814	1,820,942
	Not reported	18	15	0	0	0	0	0	20	53
<i>Total</i>		<i>2,831,520</i>	<i>1,701,448</i>	<i>1,569,292</i>	<i>669,331</i>	<i>690,326</i>	<i>198,457</i>	<i>114,513</i>	<i>91,337</i>	<i>7,866,224</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	227,658	159,953	113,639	55,453	55,931	8,507	12,489	21,419	655,049
	1–4	108,362	58,441	57,271	31,614	26,950	4,736	4,951	13,095	305,420
	5–14	137,662	79,995	105,752	44,143	35,453	7,532	6,309	9,081	425,927
	15–24	383,785	225,784	300,164	112,886	91,921	23,338	19,521	21,272	1,178,671
	25–34	651,348	396,604	375,082	176,678	147,387	41,025	26,009	28,887	1,843,020
	35–44	481,936	315,180	319,185	142,017	121,374	49,113	26,725	26,788	1,482,318
	45–54	508,791	322,675	317,116	145,494	123,951	31,620	24,044	21,750	1,495,441
	55–64	642,253	396,644	366,516	147,148	137,912	40,053	33,771	19,213	1,783,510
	65–74	1,070,436	672,280	466,436	226,258	256,085	80,686	41,989	15,309	2,829,479
	75 and over	1,754,832	1,100,582	668,918	378,986	489,908	110,386	47,436	10,164	4,561,212
	Not reported	20	324	0	0	0	0	0	38	382
Total patient days		5,967,083	3,728,462	3,090,079	1,460,677	1,486,872	396,996	243,244	187,016	16,560,429

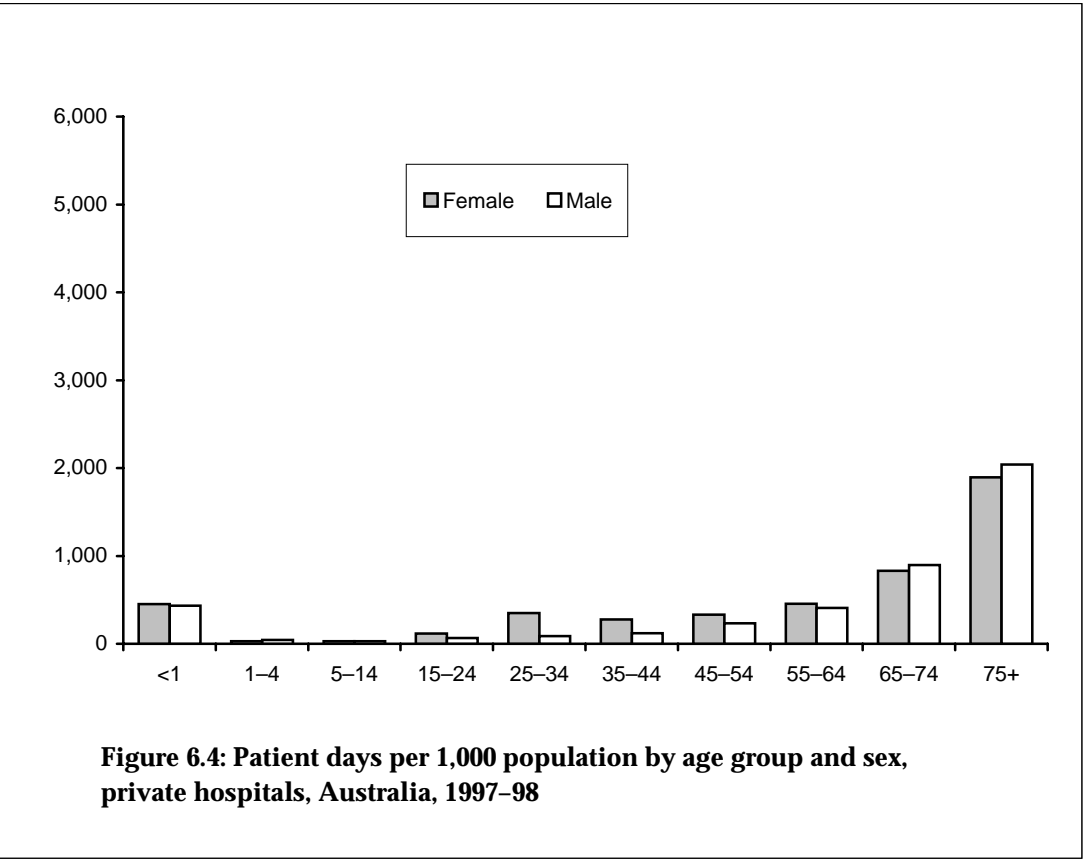
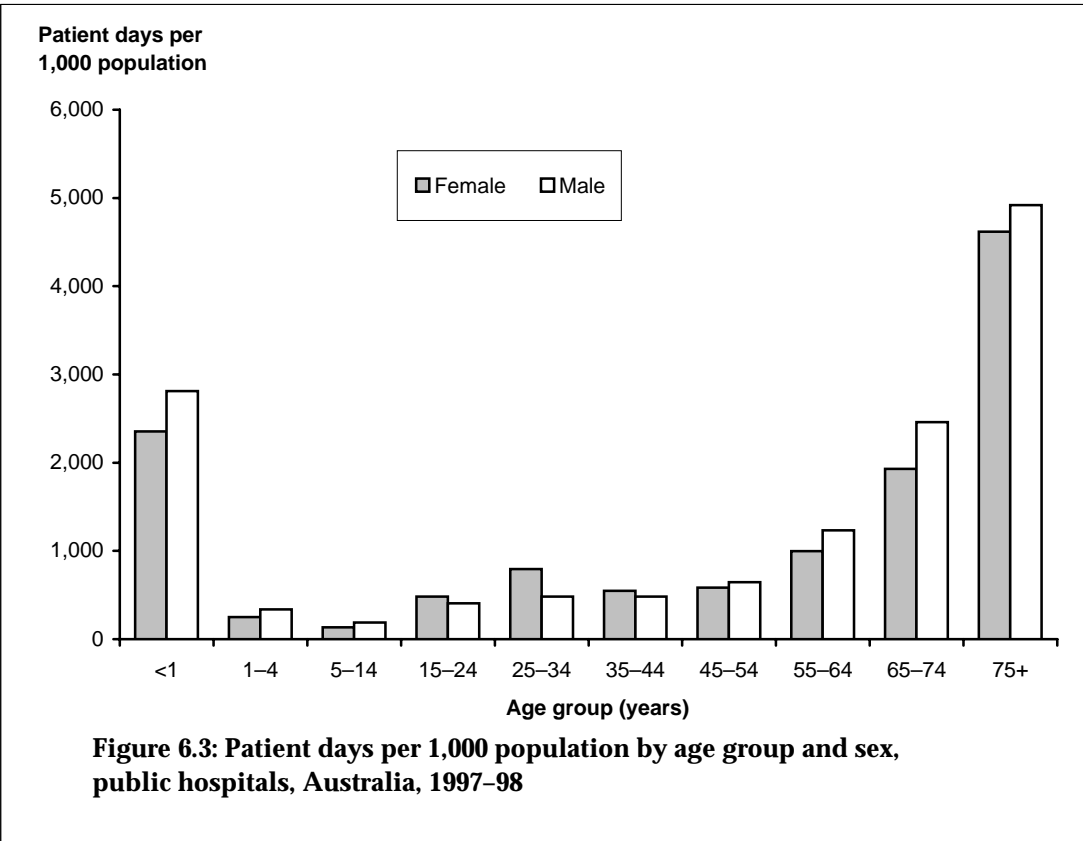
(a) Includes patient days for which sex was not reported as male or female.

Table 6.6: Patient days by age group and sex, private hospitals, States and Territories, 1997–98

Sex	Age group	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Total
Females	Under 1	21,917	9,827	9,904	5,121	1,879	2,294	3,783	n.a.	54,725
	1–4	4,219	2,790	3,895	1,705	1,115	558	131	n.a.	14,413
	5–14	12,226	9,281	6,717	2,983	2,272	1,365	290	n.a.	35,134
	15–24	45,095	40,088	29,166	16,056	11,224	5,637	1,523	n.a.	148,789
	25–34	144,610	137,542	102,216	54,310	36,474	16,206	7,632	n.a.	498,990
	35–44	113,474	108,977	80,662	39,831	34,193	12,746	5,945	n.a.	395,828
	45–54	111,235	110,534	81,080	36,393	38,942	13,086	4,642	n.a.	395,912
	55–64	102,074	101,145	73,914	31,002	34,690	11,214	3,845	n.a.	357,884
	65–74	152,754	159,594	129,529	41,773	56,478	18,053	5,029	n.a.	563,210
	75 and over	265,663	347,064	270,531	75,935	126,734	30,716	6,726	n.a.	1,123,369
Not reported	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	35
	<i>Total</i>	<i>973,302</i>	<i>1,026,842</i>	<i>787,614</i>	<i>305,109</i>	<i>344,001</i>	<i>111,875</i>	<i>39,546</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>3,588,289</i>
Males	Under 1	16,227	12,749	11,956	5,968	2,301	2,552	4,085	n.a.	55,838
	1–4	7,121	4,553	5,525	2,496	1,619	790	223	n.a.	22,327
	5–14	12,153	12,092	8,242	3,487	2,480	1,674	390	n.a.	40,518
	15–24	24,687	27,799	17,129	8,473	8,528	2,415	1,035	n.a.	90,066
	25–34	35,724	40,608	20,570	11,532	9,651	3,099	931	n.a.	122,115
	35–44	51,222	47,539	34,022	15,183	15,464	5,234	1,564	n.a.	170,228
	45–54	85,271	72,523	65,285	24,984	25,182	9,122	2,696	n.a.	285,063
	55–64	97,530	86,823	73,195	28,127	27,455	8,893	3,592	n.a.	325,615
	65–74	154,371	148,791	137,983	46,498	43,550	15,740	4,807	n.a.	551,740
	75 and over	183,413	203,856	212,840	70,775	56,528	19,590	5,992	n.a.	752,994
	<i>Total</i>	<i>667,719</i>	<i>657,333</i>	<i>586,747</i>	<i>217,523</i>	<i>192,758</i>	<i>69,109</i>	<i>25,315</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>2,416,504</i>
Persons ^(a)	Under 1	38,149	22,586	21,860	11,092	4,180	4,846	7,873	n.a.	110,586
	1–4	11,340	7,343	9,420	4,201	2,734	1,348	354	n.a.	36,740
	5–14	24,400	21,373	14,959	6,470	4,752	3,039	680	n.a.	75,673
	15–24	69,792	67,887	46,295	24,529	19,752	8,052	2,558	n.a.	238,865
	25–34	180,342	178,150	122,786	65,842	46,125	19,305	8,563	n.a.	621,113
	35–44	164,698	156,516	114,684	55,014	49,657	17,980	7,509	n.a.	566,058
	45–54	196,519	183,057	146,365	61,377	64,124	22,208	7,338	n.a.	680,988
	55–64	199,625	187,968	147,109	59,130	62,145	20,107	7,437	n.a.	683,521
	65–74	307,134	308,385	267,512	88,271	100,028	33,793	9,836	n.a.	1,114,959
	75 and over	449,102	550,920	483,371	146,710	183,262	50,306	12,718	n.a.	1,876,389
Not reported	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.	35
Total patient days		1,641,101	1,684,185	1,374,361	522,636	536,759	180,984	64,866	n.a.	6,004,927

(a) Includes patient days for which sex was not reported as male or female.





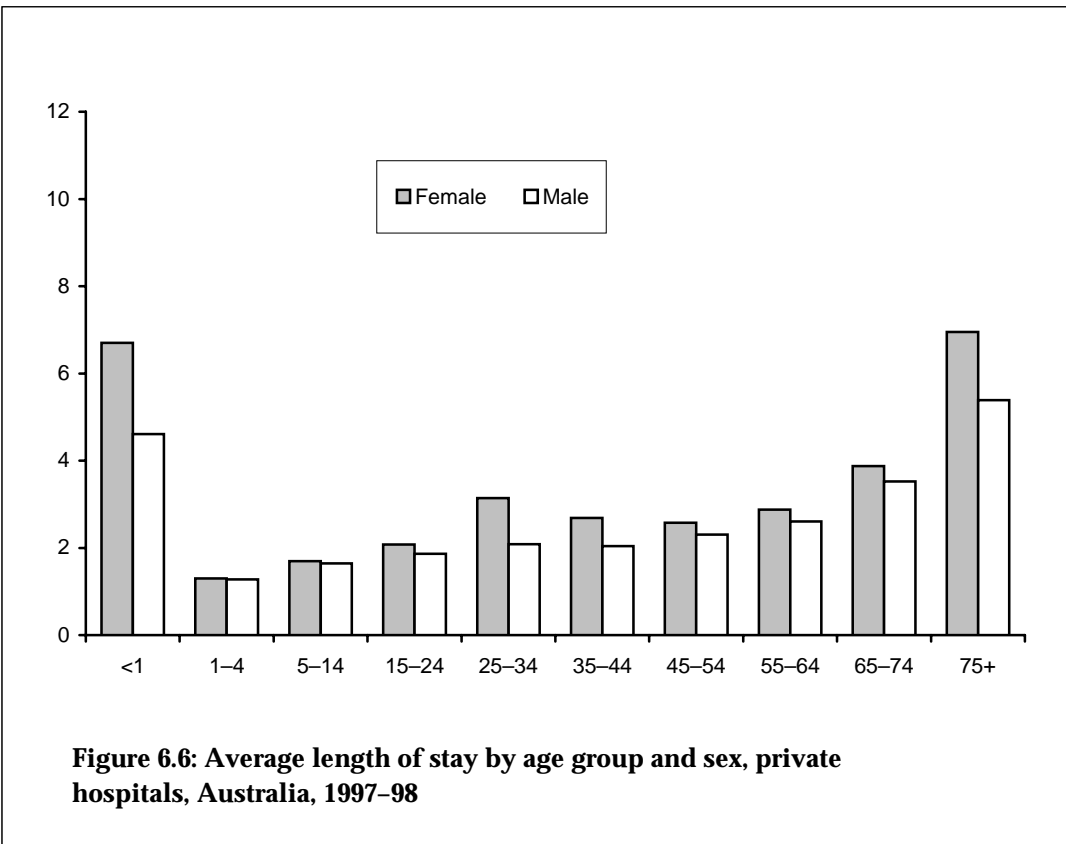
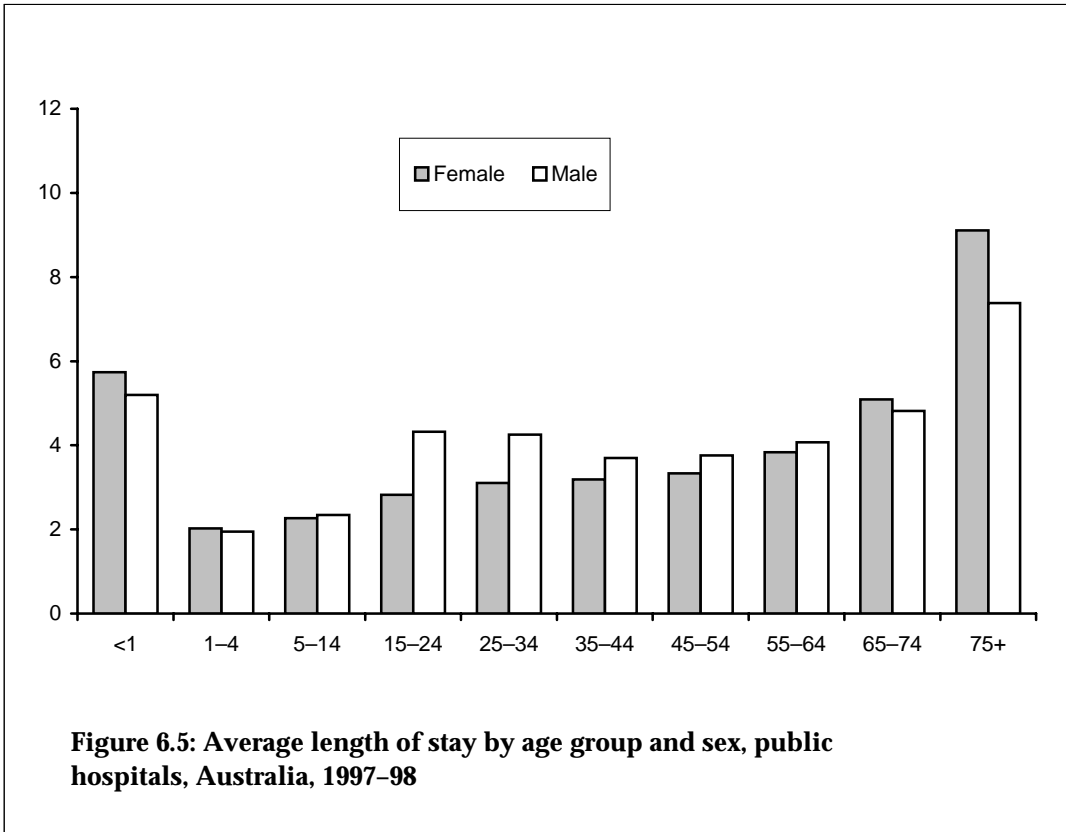


Table 6.7: Separations by reported Indigenous status and hospital sector, States and Territories, 1997–98

	NSW	Vic ^(a)	Qld	WA ^(b)	SA	Tas	ACT ^(b)	NT	Total
Public hospitals									
Indigenous status and hospital sector									
Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin	26,861	38	32,512	1,447	10,661	659	38	30,209	102,425
Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin	325	0	6,369	5	19	257	0	119	7,094
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	439	0	432	0	25	27	0	343	1,266
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified	0	6,489	0	30,047	0	0	574	0	37,110
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	1,245,172	922,320	603,460	314,840	328,266	72,441	56,522	21,665	3,564,686
Not reported	0	0	42,572	24	7,811	7,005	41	64	57,517
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,272,797</i>	<i>928,847</i>	<i>685,345</i>	<i>346,363</i>	<i>346,782</i>	<i>80,389</i>	<i>57,175</i>	<i>52,400</i>	<i>3,770,098</i>
Private hospitals									
Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin	1,593	n.a.	221	0	212	4	7	n.a.	2,037
Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin	245	n.a.	97	1	6	6	0	n.a.	355
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	743	n.a.	89	0	3	0	0	n.a.	835
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified	0	n.a.	0	335	0	0	5	n.a.	340
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	541,770	n.a.	274,122	160,022	138,408	29,934	17,494	n.a.	1,161,750
Not reported	0	484,201	113,549	0	8,791	21,053	65	n.a.	627,659
<i>Total</i>	<i>544,351</i>	<i>484,201</i>	<i>388,078</i>	<i>160,358</i>	<i>147,420</i>	<i>50,997</i>	<i>17,571</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>1,792,976</i>
All hospitals^(c)									
Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin	28,454	38	32,733	1,447	10,873	663	45	30,209	104,462
Torres Strait Islander but not Aboriginal origin	570	0	6,466	6	25	263	0	119	7,449
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin	1,182	0	521	0	28	27	0	343	2,101
Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified	0	6,489	0	30,382	0	0	579	0	37,450
Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin	1,786,942	922,320	877,582	474,862	466,674	102,375	74,016	21,665	4,726,436
Not reported	0	484,201	156,121	24	16,602	28,058	106	64	685,176
Total	1,817,148	1,413,048	1,073,423	506,721	494,202	131,386	74,746	52,400	5,563,074
Separations for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders per 1,000 Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander population ^(d)	398	367	543	785	703	139	392	904	540

- (a) Victorian public hospitals reported Indigenous status using only the *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified* and the *Not Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin* categories. Indigenous status data were not available for the private hospitals in Victoria.
- (b) Western Australia and Australian Capital Territory reported Indigenous status using a mixture of the detailed Indigenous status categories (*Aboriginal but not Torres Strait Islander origin*, *Torres Strait Islander and not Aboriginal origin* and *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin*) and the category *Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin, not further specified*.
- (c) Public hospitals only in the Northern Territory.
- (d) The rates were directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991. For details, see Appendix 3. Indigenous population data are included in Appendix 4.

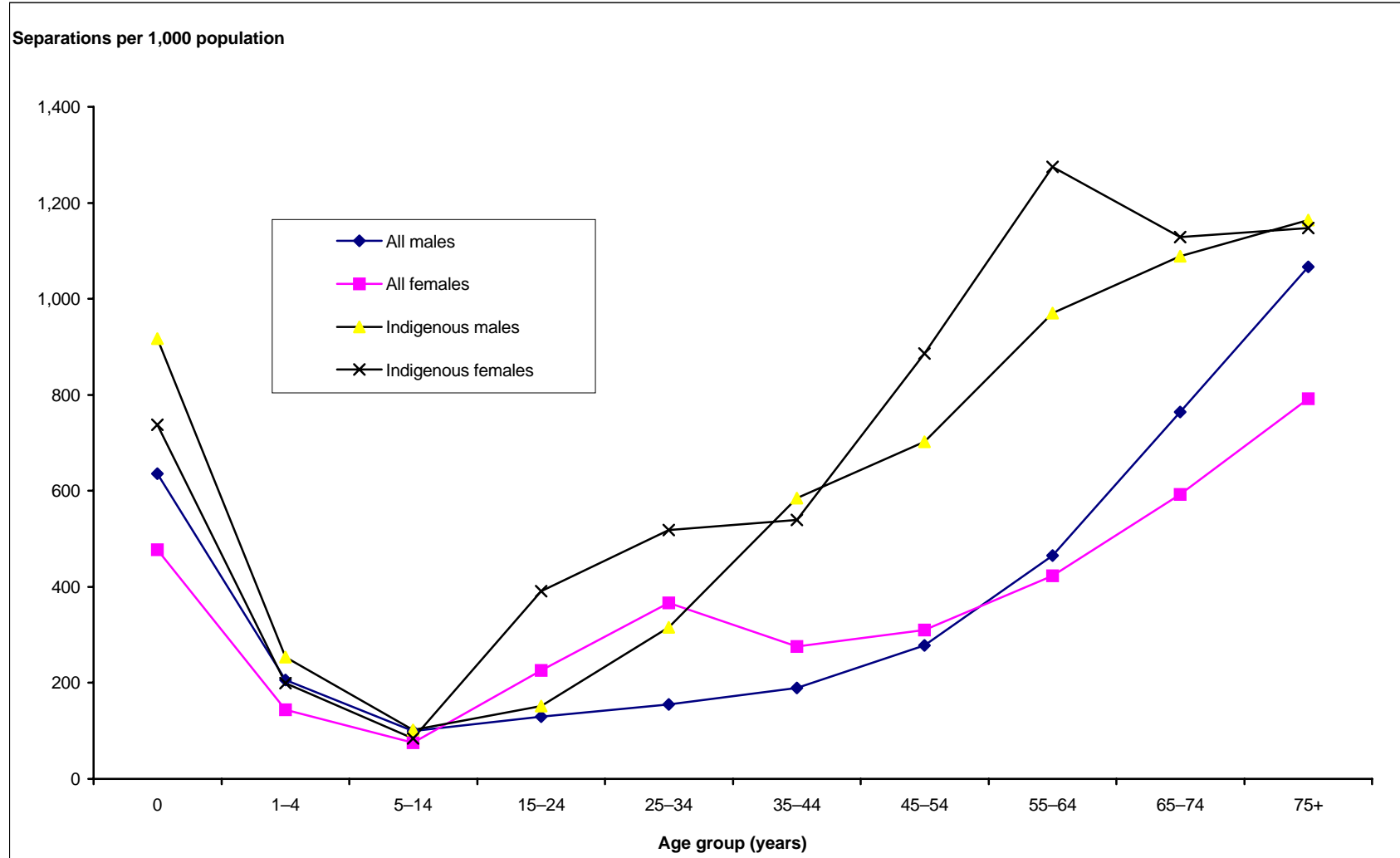


Figure 6.7: Separations per 1,000 population, by sex, age group and reported Indigenous status, all hospitals, Australia, 1997-98

Table 6.8: Separations by selected country/region of birth and hospital sector, Australia, 1997–98

Country/Region	Separations			Separations per 1,000 population ^(a)		
	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors
Australia	2,803,803	1,364,689	4,168,492	201.3	100.1	301.4
New Zealand	54,875	20,575	75,450	175.3	66.1	241.4
Papua New Guinea	4,554	2,093	6,647	215.3	101.8	317.1
Fiji	9,208	2,411	11,619	265.6	67.7	333.3
Oceania (other)	9,101	3,567	12,668	393.4	161.3	554.7
<i>Oceania (total)</i>	<i>2,881,541</i>	<i>1,393,335</i>	<i>4,274,876</i>	<i>201.3</i>	<i>99.3</i>	<i>300.6</i>
United Kingdom and Ireland	259,862	123,943	383,805	153.3	68.3	221.6
Greece	46,662	11,739	58,401	199.4	58.2	257.7
Italy	79,128	36,072	115,200	168.2	78.8	246.9
Malta	14,874	5,143	20,017	179.1	63.4	242.4
Former Yugoslavia	43,445	11,032	54,477	171.0	41.6	212.6
Former USSR and Baltic States	19,465	5,891	25,356	177.2	63.2	240.3
Hungary	7,968	4,698	12,666	169.7	77.8	247.4
Poland	18,390	8,542	26,932	146.3	63.5	209.8
Romania	2,943	1,102	4,045	173.8	60.3	234.1
Austria	5,179	2,731	7,910	167.8	76.2	244.0
France	3,443	1,713	5,156	157.8	74.8	232.5
Germany	26,097	13,742	39,839	149.5	73.5	223.0
Netherlands	23,271	9,468	32,739	157.4	62.5	219.9
Europe and the former USSR (other)	30,561	11,869	42,430	199.7	72.6	272.2
<i>Europe and the former USSR (total)</i>	<i>581,288</i>	<i>247,685</i>	<i>828,973</i>	<i>164.3</i>	<i>66.6</i>	<i>230.9</i>
Lebanon	21,600	4,593	26,193	277.5	51.1	328.7
Turkey	8,937	1,290	10,227	283.0	40.6	323.7
Iran	2,689	964	3,653	156.4	49.0	205.4
Egypt	10,159	4,726	14,885	190.9	75.1	266.0
Middle East and North Africa (other)	11,465	3,003	14,468	245.6	60.4	306.0
<i>Middle East and North Africa (total)</i>	<i>54,850</i>	<i>14,576</i>	<i>69,426</i>	<i>239.4</i>	<i>59.1</i>	<i>298.5</i>

(continued)

Table 6.8 (continued): Separations by selected country/region of birth and hospital sector, Australia, 1997–98

Country/Region	Separations			Separations per 1,000 population ^(a)		
	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors	Public hospitals	Private hospitals	All sectors
Myanmar	1,823	915	2,738	123.0	57.0	180.0
Indonesia	5,561	3,137	8,698	141.8	76.3	218.1
Cambodia	3,572	742	4,314	157.7	34.5	192.1
Malaysia	8,836	5,056	13,892	143.4	71.4	214.8
Philippines	17,326	3,489	20,815	175.8	32.9	208.7
Singapore	3,150	2,159	5,309	144.5	90.6	235.1
Vietnam	24,068	4,567	28,635	145.0	27.5	172.5
Thailand	2,080	656	2,736	120.4	41.4	161.7
China	20,917	6,560	27,477	131.5	38.6	170.0
Hong Kong and Macau	5,829	3,530	9,359	151.3	89.8	241.1
Japan	2,040	1,890	3,930	124.9	96.2	221.1
Korea	3,317	1,091	4,408	111.8	33.8	145.6
India	15,341	6,681	22,022	150.9	59.8	210.6
Sri Lanka	9,134	3,602	12,736	164.5	59.1	223.7
Asia (other)	7,521	2,471	9,992	170.6	60.6	231.2
<i>Asia (total)</i>	<i>130,515</i>	<i>46,546</i>	<i>177,061</i>	<i>144.6</i>	<i>50.2</i>	<i>194.8</i>
Canada	3,730	2,564	6,294	135.3	88.2	223.4
United States of America	6,351	5,765	12,116	118.6	105.6	224.2
North America (other)	241	46	287	4,145.5	742.3	4,887.7
<i>North America (total)</i>	<i>10,322</i>	<i>8,375</i>	<i>18,697</i>	<i>127.9</i>	<i>99.2</i>	<i>227.1</i>
Argentina	1,569	936	2,505	130.3	70.6	200.9
Chile	4,391	1,341	5,732	179.9	48.3	228.3
The Caribbean	1,454	500	1,954	399.5	131.1	530.6
South America, Central America and The Caribbean	7,352	2,202	9,554	179.1	50.2	229.3
<i>South America, Central America and The Caribbean (total)</i>	<i>14,766</i>	<i>4,979</i>	<i>19,745</i>	<i>183.7</i>	<i>56.8</i>	<i>240.5</i>
Mauritius	3,513	1,579	5,092	165.3	71.5	236.8
South Africa	7,529	5,790	13,319	119.2	86.5	205.7
Africa excluding North Africa (other)	7,031	2,824	9,855	200.1	81.0	281.2
<i>Africa excluding North Africa (total)</i>	<i>18,073</i>	<i>10,193</i>	<i>28,266</i>	<i>151.8</i>	<i>80.2</i>	<i>232.0</i>
<i>Overseas (total)</i>	<i>887,552</i>	<i>361,000</i>	<i>1,248,552</i>	<i>168.1</i>	<i>63.0</i>	<i>231.1</i>
Not stated or inadequately described	78,743	67,287	146,030
Total	3,770,098	1,792,976	5,563,074	199.4	93.1	292.5

(a) The rates were directly age-standardised to the Australian population at 30 June 1991. For details, see Appendix 3. Population data by country of birth are included in Appendix 4. .. not applicable.