

Statistics on Inpatient Diseases 2021

During 2021 more than 600,000 persons were treated in inpatient care with disease or symptom diagnoses. The number of inpatients were higher than 2020 but lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic. Cardiovascular diseases were the most common diseases in inpatient care.

What is inpatient care?

Inpatient care is the care of patients whose conditions require admission to a hospital. This means that the patient is admitted to a hospital and a hospital bed is made available for the patient. This is called a care event in inpatient care. These statistics include care events that have been terminated during the year and where the patient has been discharged.

Disease diagnoses and symptom diagnoses

The main diagnosis refers to the condition that was the reason for the care event. Inpatient diagnoses can be divided into three main groups: *diseases* (chapter 1–14 and 16–18 in ICD-10-SE), *injuries and poisoning* (chapter 19 in ICD-10-SE) and *pregnancy and childbirth* (chapter 15 in ICD-10-SE). These statistics contain only care events included in the group *diseases*. For some patients in this group it was not possible to diagnose the patient. The patient's condition has then been described with a symptom diagnosis (chapter 18). In the current ICD-10-SE version, patients having **COVID-19** as main diagnosis are categorized into chapter 22 (*codes for special purposes*). In these official statistics, this chapter is not categorized into the group *diseases*.

Increasing number of inpatients in 2021

During 2021, 1,385,000 inpatient admissions were made. Diseases caused the majority of these, 1,015,500. *Injuries or poisoning* and *pregnancy or childbirth* accounted for lower numbers, 141,000 and 132,500 respectively. The disease admissions were evenly distributed between men and women, 52 percent and 48 percent respectively. Since some patients were cared for several times, the total number of patients were 835,500. Approximately 610,000 of these had a disease as the main diagnosis.

Compared with 2020, the number of inpatients increased with two percent, which corresponds to 17,000 patients. Between 2019, the year before the COVID-19 pandemic, and 2020 the total number of patients decreased by six percent. The increase between 2020 and 2021 applied to almost all disease chapters but to a varying extent. In comparison to 2019 the number of inpatients were still lower for most disease chapters. The decrease of number of inpatients

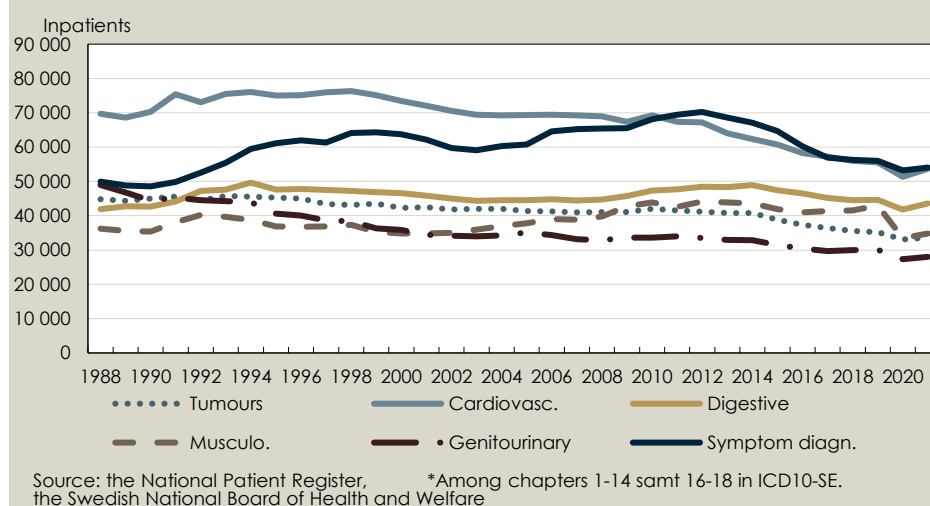
compared to 2019 were most dominant for *respiratory diseases* both 2020 (31 percent) and 2021 (30 percent). However, the chapter does not include COVID-19. Large decreases were also seen for *diseases of the musculoskeletal system* both 2020 (21 percent) and 2021 (19 percent). *Cardiovascular diseases (Diseases of the circulatory system)* and *diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism* were the two areas where number of patients are closest to the pre-pandemic levels.

Patients in inpatient care with COVID-19 as main diagnosis are not categorised into any of the disease chapters presented in these official statistics. In 2021, 32,000 patients received inpatient care having COVID-19 as the main diagnosis, 19,000 were men and 13,000 were women. The numbers are roughly at the same levels as 2020, when 30,500 inpatients had COVID-19 as the main diagnosis.

Cardiovascular diseases are common for both men and women

Symptom diagnoses (for example, chest and abdominal pain) and *cardiovascular diseases* are still the most common causes for inpatient care among women. In 2020, 54,000 female patients received inpatient care for *symptom diagnoses* and 53,500 for *cardiovascular diseases*. Other common diagnostic groups for women were *diseases of the digestive system*, *diseases of the musculoskeletal system*, *tumours* and *diseases of the genitourinary system* having between 28,000 and 44,000 female patients in each group.

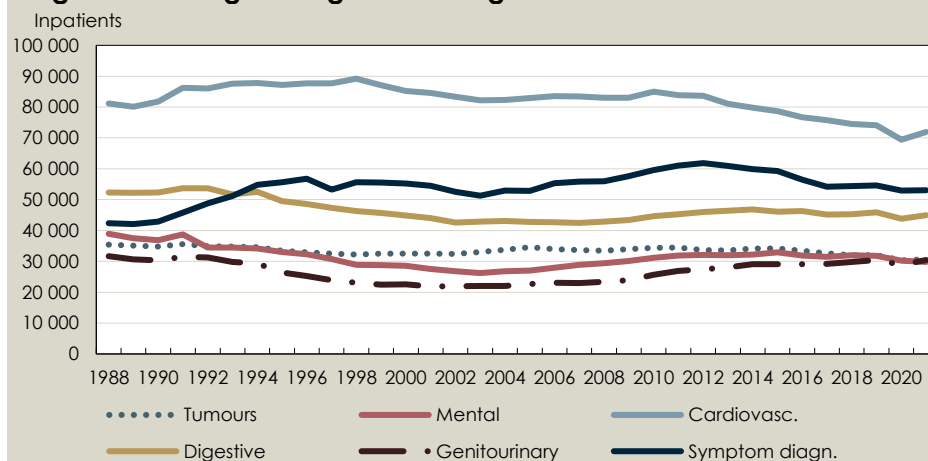
Figure 1. Six largest diagnostic categories* for women 1989–2021



Among men *cardiovascular diseases* is the largest diagnostic group by far with 72,000 patients in 2021. It has been the most common group during the whole period, 1988-2021. For both men and women decreases in number of patients with *cardiovascular diseases* were seen in 2020 followed by increases of number of patients in 2021. The chapter still has a downtrend over time for both men and women. After *cardiovascular diseases*, *symptom diagnoses* and *diseases of*

the digestive system were the most common, 53,000 and 45,000 male patients respectively. Tumours, mental and behavioural disorders and diseases of the genitourinary system were also common, with approximately 30,000 men in each group.

Figure 2. Six largest diagnostic categories* for men 1989–2021



Diagnoses differ between age groups

In the age group small children 0–4 years old, new-borns were most often in inpatient care, diagnosed with *certain conditions originating in the perinatal period* (disorders and injuries that have their origin at the time around birth). Besides that, the most common reason for inpatient care among small children 0–4 years was *respiratory diseases*. Many children in this group are treated for acute upper and lower respiratory infections. *Respiratory diseases* were also common for children aged 5–9 years beside *symptom diagnoses*. For older children, between the ages 10 and 14, *symptom diagnoses* and *digestive diseases* were most frequent. *Mental and behavioural disorders* were the most common reason for inpatient care between the ages 15 and 44, especially mental and behavioural disorders due to drug and alcohol use.

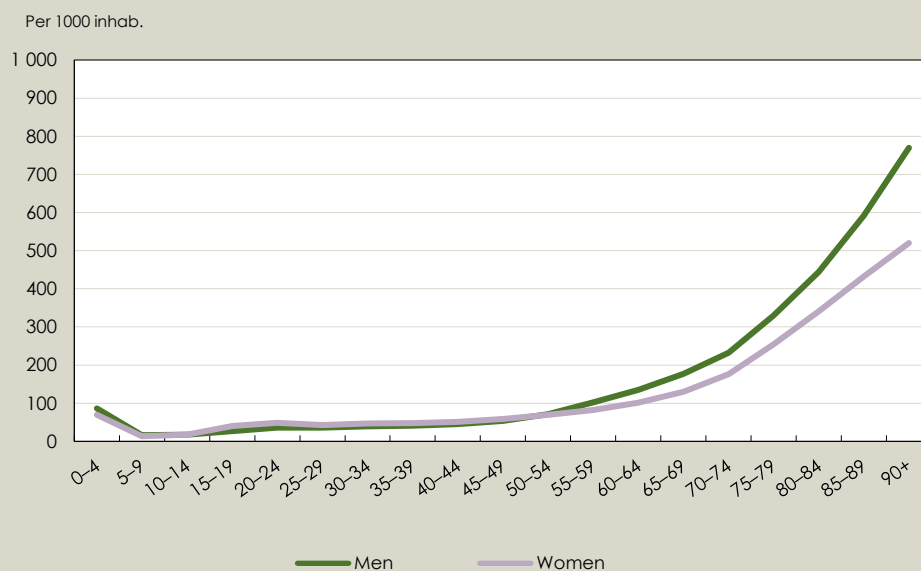
In the age span 45–54 *digestive diseases* were most frequent, followed by *symptom diagnoses*. For patients older than 55 years, *cardiovascular diseases* were the most common reasons for inpatient care.

Many elderlies among the hospitalised

The need for inpatient care differs between age groups. Apart from the youngest age group, 0–4 years, children (aged 5–14 years) have the lowest number of hospitalisations per 1,000 inhabitants. Around 1 percent of children 5–14 years of age were treated in inpatient care for disease in 2021. The proportion then increases with increasing age, which means that the oldest age group has the highest proportion of hospitalizations in the population. Among people aged 80 and older 25 percent were hospitalised for disease some time during 2021. Women

has a higher proportion of hospitalisation than men in the age span 15–49 years while men 50 years and older has a higher proportion of hospitalisations.

Figure 3. Age distribution of hospitalisations* per 1,000 inhabitants 2021



Source: the National Patient Register,
the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare

*Among chapters 1-14 samt 16-18 in ICD10-SE.

More information

You can find more tables, charts and other information in the Excel file:

<https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/statistics-and-data/statistics/>

For those who want to conduct their own searches in the statistics database:

https://sdb.socialstyrelsen.se/if_par/val.aspx

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