

Statistics on Inpatient Diseases 2024

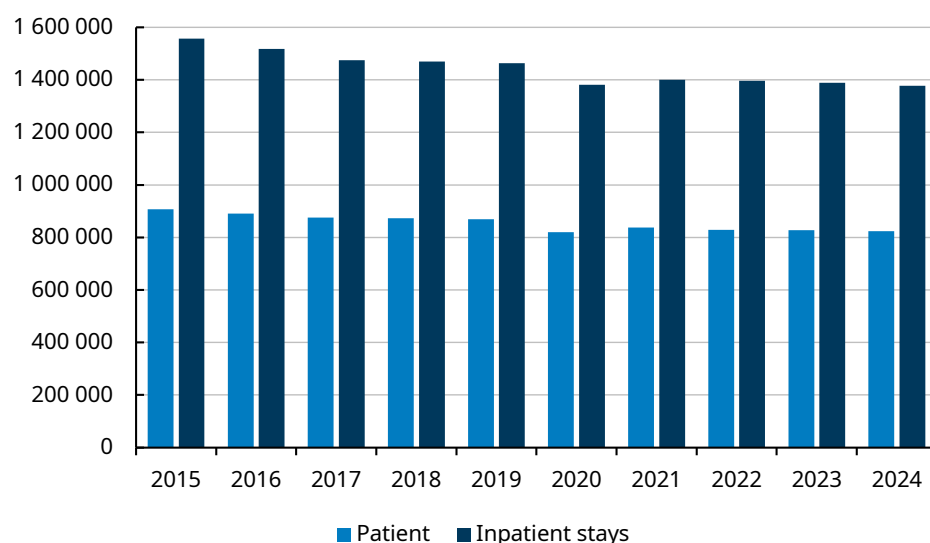
Almost 1,4 million inpatient admissions were recorded 2024, slightly over a million of them were caused by disease. Over a longer period, the number of patients receiving inpatient care has decreased.

Cardiovascular diseases were the most common disease chapter among patients in inpatient care.

Fewer patients in inpatient care

During 2024, a total of 1,377,000 inpatient admissions were made. Most of them, 1,064,000, were caused by disease. The disease admissions were evenly distributed between men and women, at 52 percent and 48 percent respectively. Admissions due to injuries or poisoning and those related to pregnancy or childbirth were lower, 143,000 and 118,000 respectively. Since some patients were admitted multiple times, the total number of patients, 824,000, was less than the number of admissions.

Figure 1. Number of patients and number of inpatient stays 2015–2024



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

Between 2015 and 2024, the number of people hospitalised decreased by 83,000 (9 percent). This decrease concerns all disease chapters except for *certain conditions originating in the perinatal period and diseases of the musculoskeletal system*. The decrease has been constant apart from the temporary increase between 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Symptom diagnoses* (for example, chest and abdominal pain)

have decreased the most (21,000 patients), followed by *cardiovascular diseases* (19,000 patients) during the period 2015–2024.

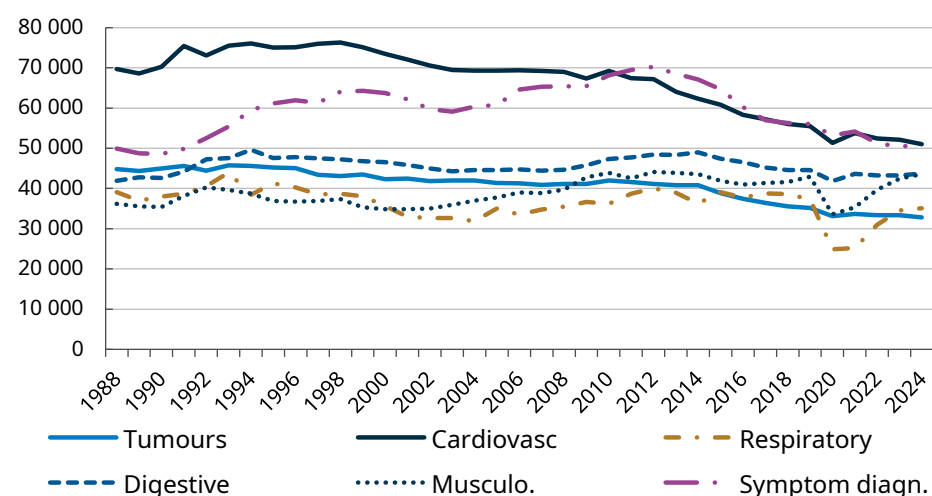
In a short-time perspective, the number of patients in all disease chapters has been relatively unchanged compared to 2023. The largest increase was in the disease chapter *certain infectious and parasitic diseases* (6 percent), while the largest decrease was in *congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities* (4 percent).

Cardiovascular diseases are common for both men and women

Cardiovascular diseases and *symptom diagnoses* (for example, chest and abdominal pain) are still the most common causes of inpatient care among women. The number of women treated for *cardiovascular diseases* was 51,000, the same as for *symptom diagnoses*. Other common diagnostic groups for women were *diseases of the digestive system*, *diseases of the musculoskeletal system*, *respiratory diseases* and *tumours*, each having between 33,000 and 44,000 female patients.

Figure 2A. Six largest diagnostic categories* for women 1988-2024

Number of patients



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

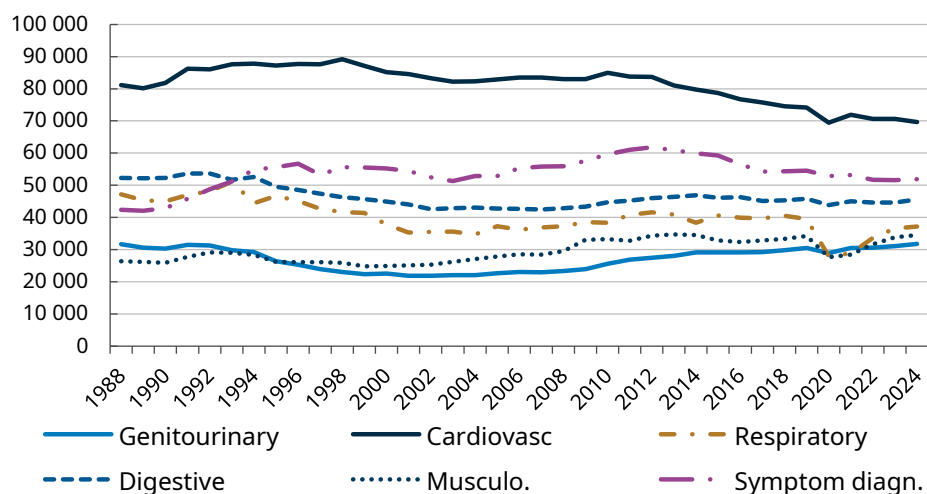
Source: The National Patient Register, The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare

Despite the number of male inpatients with *cardiovascular diseases* decreasing by 11 percent since 2015, it was still the most common disease chapter in 2024, with 70,000 patients. The number of patients receiving inpatient care for *symptom diagnoses* were 52,000, while 46,000 had a main diagnosis in the disease chapter *diseases of the digestive system*. Other common disease chapters among men were *respiratory diseases*, *diseases of*

the musculoskeletal system and diseases of the genitourinary system having between 32,000 and 37,000 in each group.

Figure 2B. Six largest diagnostic categories* for men 1988-2024

Number of patients



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

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

It is more common for people in areas with major socioeconomic challenges to require inpatient care

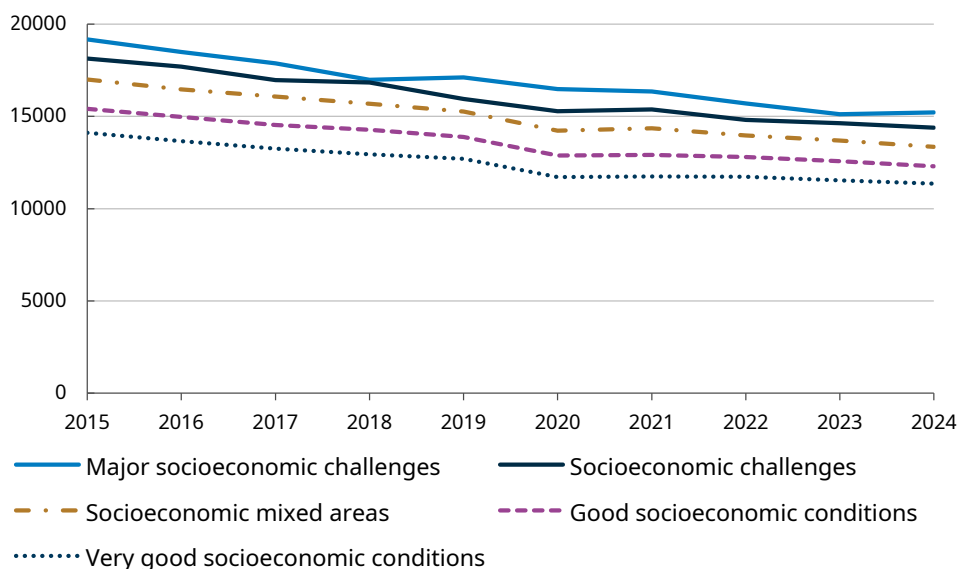
The number of inpatient care cases, in relation to the population, is higher in areas with socioeconomic challenges compared to areas with good socioeconomic conditions. The lowest number of admissions was in areas with very good socioeconomic conditions. In 2024, the number of inpatient care cases in areas with major socioeconomic challenges was 15,000 per 100,000 inhabitants, compared to 11,000 in areas with very good socioeconomic conditions. The figures are age-standardized, meaning they are adjusted for differences in the age structure of the population between different groups. Across all types of areas, there has been a decrease in the number of patients over an extended period.

Regional statistical areas and area type

Area types are a measure of socioeconomic conditions in RegSo, regional statistical areas. RegSo divides Sweden into 3,363 areas that adhere to county and municipal boundaries, and these data are updated annually based on the population as of December 31. The measure is based on an index that includes the proportion of people with a low economic standard, the proportion of people with pre-secondary education, and the proportion receiving financial assistance and/or that are long-term unemployed. There are a total of five area types, ranging from areas with major socioeconomic challenges (1) to areas with very good socioeconomic conditions (5).

Figure 3. Number of inpatient stays per area type, 2015–2024

Agestandardized number of inpatient stays per 100,000 inhabitants, aged 1 year or older



Source: The National Patient Register, The Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare, Statistics Sweden

For the year 2024, the diseases chapters that differed the most in percentage between different socioeconomic areas was *diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs and certain disorders involving the immune mechanism*, as well as *mental and behavioural disorders*. There were 51% respectively 45% more people with these diagnoses in areas with major socioeconomic challenges compared to areas with good socioeconomic conditions.

At the same time, the number of people with *diseases of the musculoskeletal system* was 19 % lower in areas with major socioeconomic challenges compared to areas with good socioeconomic conditions. For diseases such as *tumours, congenital malformations, deformities and chromosomal abnormalities*, and *diseases of the nervous system*, there was almost no difference between the areas.

Diagnoses differ between age groups

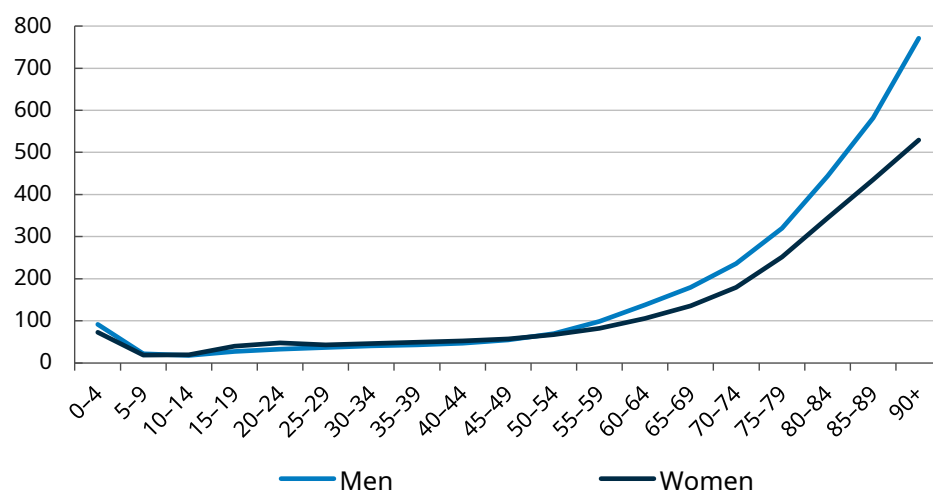
In the age group small children (0–4 years old), new-borns were most often in inpatient care, diagnosed *with certain conditions originating in the perinatal period* (disorders and injuries that have their origin at the time around birth). Besides that, the most common reason for hospitalisation among small children were *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*. *Mental and behavioural disorders* were the most common reason for inpatient care between the ages 15 and 54. For patients older than 55 years, *cardiovascular diseases* and *diseases of the musculoskeletal system* were the most common reasons for inpatient care.

Many elderlies among the hospitalised

The need for inpatient care varies 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. In 2024, less than twenty inpatient admissions per 1,000 children aged 5–14 due to disease took place. The proportion then increases with increasing age, which means that the oldest age group has the highest proportion of hospitalisations in the population. Women have a higher proportion of hospitalisation than men in the age span 10–49 years while men 50 years and older have a higher proportion of hospitalisations.

Figure 4. Age distribution of hospitalisations* per 1,000 inhabitants 2024

Number per 1,000 inhabitants



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

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

What is inpatient care?

Inpatient care is the care of patients whose condition requires admission to a hospital. This means that the patient is admitted to a hospital and a hospital bed is made available to the patient. This is called a care event in inpatient care. These statistics includes 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 is 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.

More information

You can find more tables, graphs and information here (in Swedish, but with English list of terms. Select Tillhörande dokument och bilagor): <https://www.socialstyrelsen.se/statistik-och-data/statistik/alla-statistikamnen/sjukdomar-och-symtom/>

If you want to use our statistical database:

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

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