

**ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS
IN THE EASTERN REGION,
1994 TO 2001**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
COMMENTARY	3
SECTION 1	
OVERALL ACTIVITY	
Table 1.1 Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Casetype	13
Figure 1 Numbers of Discharges by Casetype	14
Figure 2 Percentages of Discharges by Casetype	15
AGE GROUP	
<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 2.1 Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Age Group	16
Figure 3 Numbers of Discharges by Age Group	17
Table 2.2 Numbers and Percentages of Bed Days Used by Age Group	18
Figure 4 Percentages of Discharges by Age Group	19
Figure 5 Percentages of Bed Days Used by Age Group	19
Table 2.3 Mean and Median Lengths of Stay by Age Group	20
Figure 6 Mean Lengths of Stay by Age Group	21
<i>Day Cases</i>	
Table 3.1 Numbers and Percentages of Day Cases by Age Group	22
Figure 7 Numbers of Day Cases by Age Group	23
Figure 8 Percentages of Day Cases by Age Group	24
Table 3.2 Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Total Activity by Age Group	25
Figure 9 Day Cases as a Percentage of Total Activity by Age Group	26
Table 3.3 Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Elective Activity by Age Group	27
Figure 10 Day Cases as a Percentage of Elective Activity by Age Group	28
SOURCE OF ADMISSION	
<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 4.1 Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Source	29
Table 4.2 Numbers and Percentages of Bed Days Used by Source	30
Figure 11 Percentages of Bed Days Used by Source	31
Table 4.3 Mean and Median Lengths of Stay by Source	32
AREA OF RESIDENCE	
<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 5.1 Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Area	33
Figure 12 Numbers of Discharges from Outside the Region by HB Area	34
Table 5.2 Numbers and Percentages of Bed Days Used by Area	35
Table 5.3 Mean and Median Lengths of Stay by Area	36
Figure 13 Mean Lengths of Stay by Area	37
<i>Day Cases</i>	
Table 6.1 Numbers and Percentages of Day Cases by Area	38
Figure 14 Numbers of Day Cases from Outside the Region by HB Area	39
Table 6.2 Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Total Activity by Area	40
Table 6.3 Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Elective Activity by Area	41

	Page
CATEGORY OF PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS	
<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 7.1	42
Table 7.2	43
Table 7.3	44
<i>Day Cases</i>	
Table 8.1	45
Table 8.2	46
Table 8.3	47

SECTION 2: SUBGROUP ANALYSIS BY CATEGORY OF PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS

CHILDREN (Under 15 years)

<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 9.1	48
Table 9.2	49
Table 9.3	50
<i>Day Cases</i>	
Table 10.1	51
Table 10.2	52
Table 10.3	53

OLDER PERSONS (65 years and older)

<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 11.1	54
Table 11.2	55
Table 11.3	56
<i>Day Cases</i>	
Table 12.1	57
Table 12.2	58
Table 12.3	59

ELECTIVE SOURCES OF ADMISSION

<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 13.1	60
Table 13.2	61
Table 13.3	62

EMERGENCY SOURCES OF ADMISSION

<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>	
Table 14.1	63
Table 14.2	64
Table 14.3	65

RESIDENTS OF THE EASTERN REGION		Page
<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>		
Table 15.1	Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Category of Principal Diagnosis	66
Table 15.2	Numbers and Percentages of Bed Days Used by Category of Principal Diagnosis	67
Table 15.3	Mean and Median Lengths of Stay by Category of Principal Diagnosis	68
<i>Inpatient Discharges with Elective Sources of Admission</i>		
Table 16.1	Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Category of Principal Diagnosis	69
Table 16.2	Numbers and Percentages of Bed Days Used by Category of Principal Diagnosis	70
Table 16.3	Mean and Median Lengths of Stay by Category of Principal Diagnosis	71
<i>Day Cases</i>		
Table 17.1	Numbers and Percentages of Day Cases by Category of Principal Diagnosis	72
Table 17.2	Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Total Activity by Category of Principal Diagnosis	73
Table 17.3	Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Elective Activity by Category of Principal Diagnosis	74
 RESIDENTS OF HEALTH BOARD AREAS OUTSIDE THE EASTERN REGION		
<i>Inpatient Discharges</i>		
Table 18.1	Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Category of Principal Diagnosis	75
Table 18.2	Numbers and Percentages of Bed Days Used by Category of Principal Diagnosis	76
Table 18.3	Mean and Median Lengths of Stay by Category of Principal Diagnosis	77
<i>Inpatient Discharges with Elective Sources of Admission</i>		
Table 19.1	Numbers and Percentages of Discharges by Category of Principal Diagnosis	78
Table 19.2	Numbers and Percentages of Bed Days Used by Category of Principal Diagnosis	79
Table 19.3	Mean and Median Lengths of Stay by Category of Principal Diagnosis	80
<i>Day Cases</i>		
Table 20.1	Numbers and Percentages of Day Cases by Category of Principal Diagnosis	81
Table 20.2	Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Total Activity by Category of Principal Diagnosis	82
Table 20.3	Day Case Activity as a Percentage of Elective Activity by Category of Principal Diagnosis	83

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an analysis of discharges from acute public hospitals in the Eastern Region between 1994 and 2001. It updates the ERHA's Bed Capacity Report (2001) in which activity between 1994 and 1999 was examined. Like the Bed Capacity Report, HIPE data were used to provide the information. The analysis was undertaken in the same way as the Bed Capacity Report so that comparisons can be made. Obstetric and psychiatric activity are excluded.

This report is presented in two sections:

1. Section 1 gives general information on overall activity in the region, for example, number of inpatient discharges, diagnosis, source of admission, day cases, lengths of stay, age group and area of residence.
2. Section 2 focuses on subgroups such as children, older persons, elective admissions and residents of health board areas outside the Eastern Region.

KEY FINDINGS

Between 1994 and 2001:

- The annual number of discharges increased by 27% from 220,282 to 279,804, of which:
 - **Day cases increased** by 86% from 70,919 to 131,546. Day cases accounted for 47% of all activity in 2001 compared with 32% in 1994.
 - Day cases increased for all age groups - 38% increase in children; 150% increase in 65+ age group
 - Of the 131,546 day cases in 2001 the highest proportion (33%) was in the 45-64 year age group. In previous years the greatest day case activity was in the 15-44 year age group.
- **Inpatient discharges decreased** by 0.7% from 149,363 in 1994 to 148,258 in 2001. Inpatients accounted for 53% of all activity in 2001 compared with 68% in 1994.
- The figure of 1,234,583 bed days used for 2001 is the highest recorded since 1994.
- The 65+ age group used the greatest number of bed days. In 2001, older persons accounted for 29% of inpatient discharges and used 46% of bed days.
- Children accounted for 19% of discharges and 11% of bed days.
- In 2001, the mean length of stay (LOS) was 8.3 days ranging from 4.7 for children to 13.2 for the 65+ group. This is the highest LOS for the 65+ age group since 1994. For other age groups, LOS has remained constant since 1994.

INPATIENT SOURCES OF ADMISSION

- Emergencies have increased since 1994 by 17% while electives have declined by 23%.
- In 2001, 65% of all inpatient admissions were emergencies and 35% were elective.
- The gap between elective and emergency admissions is widening.
- Overall the mean LOS for emergencies is 2 days longer than the average for electives.

AREA OF RESIDENCE

- In 2001 79% of **inpatient discharges** lived in the Eastern Region. Inpatients from other regions, who were treated in the East, were most likely to live in adjacent health board areas. There has been very little change in this activity since 1994.
- Residents of other health board areas used 22% of bed days in 2001 i.e. 737 beds. These patients had a longer LOS than patients from the East.
- **Day cases** from other health board areas increased by 107% since 1994, (the increase in day cases among East residents was 80%). Most of these patients lived in the adjacent health board areas. The proportion of elective hospitalisations treated as day cases increased from 36% in 1994 to 60% in 2001 for patients living outside the region.
- **Elective : Emergency ratio in 2001:**

Residents of the East	28 : 72
Residents of other health board areas	62 : 38
- Nearly one-fifth of elective patients from other health board areas were admitted for treatment of neoplasms.

COMMENTARY

HIPE data for all discharges from acute public hospitals in the Eastern Region were examined for the years 1994 to 2001 inclusive. These data are sourced from the HIPE & NPRS Unit of the ESRI. For the purposes of this report, activity for residents of the Eastern Region who were hospitalised outside the region is excluded as is obstetric and psychiatric activity.

Section 1 of this report deals with overall activity and casetype analysis by age group, source of admission, area of residence and category of principal diagnosis while Section 2 deals with subgroup analysis for children (under 15 age group), older persons (65 years and over age group), elective sources of admission, emergency sources of admission, residents of the Eastern Region and residents of health board areas outside the Eastern Region. Analysis of inpatient activity is presented in terms of the numbers and percentages of discharges and bed days used and the resulting mean and median lengths of stay while analysis of day case activity is presented in terms of the numbers of day cases and as percentages of both total activity and elective activity.

The main findings of these analyses are:-

SECTION 1

OVERALL ACTIVITY

Between 1994 and 2001 the total annual number of hospital discharges increased from 220,282 to 279,804 (27.0%), Table 1.1 and Figure 1. The general trend was upward although a decrease was experienced in 1998. Increasing day case activity had a major impact on activity patterns - 70,919 day cases were treated in 1994 compared with 131,546 in 2001 which is an increase of 85.5%. The number of inpatient discharges decreased from 149,363 in 1994 to 148,258 in 2001 (0.7%) but since 1998 when the lowest number of inpatient discharges, 139,755, was recorded, a 6.1% increase has occurred.

The proportion of activity conducted on a day case basis increased from 32.2% in 1994 to 47.0% in 2001, Figure 2. This is matched by a decrease in inpatient proportions from 67.8% in 1994 to 53.0% in 2001.

AGE GROUP

Inpatient Discharges

Inpatient activity for individual age groups followed the same pattern as for overall activity insofar as their lowest numbers of discharges were recorded for 1998, Table 2.1 and Figure 3. Annual increases followed for the adult age groups whereas fluctuations were observed for the children's group.

The numbers of bed days used fell by 6.9% between 1994 and 1998 but subsequently increased by 7.8% so that the 1,234,583 figure for 2001 is the highest recorded over the time period, Table 2.2. The 65 years and over age group used nearly half of all bed days (46.2%) in 2001. Links between inpatient discharges and bed days used by age group for 2001 show that:-

- children accounted for 18.8% of inpatient discharges and used 10.6% of bed days;
- the 15-44 age group accounted for 29.1% of inpatient discharges and used 18.8% of bed days;
- the 45-64 age group accounted for 23.0% of inpatient discharges and used 24.4% of bed days; and
- the 65+ age group accounted for 29.1% of inpatient discharges and used 46.2% of bed days, Figures 4 and 5.

Calculations based on these statistics produced an overall mean length of stay of 8.3 for 2001 with it varying from 4.7 days for children to 13.2 days for older persons, Table 2.3 and Figure 6. The means for the 65+ age group and for all ages were at their highest in 2001. With the exception of the oldest age group, the median length of stay has remained constant since 1994.

Day Cases

In comparison with 1994 levels, increased numbers of day cases were recorded for 2001 for all age groups, Table 3.1 and Figure 7. The magnitude of those increases varied with age from 38.4% for children to 150.3% for the 65+ age group. Of the 131,546 day cases treated in 2001, the greatest proportion, 33.3%, was in the 45-64 age group but that is not consistent with other years' activity when day case activity was most common in the 15-44 age group, Figure 8. Over the years, the 45-64 and 65+ age groups have increased their shares of day case activity annually whereas downward trends, since 1995 and 1996, were observed for the under 15 and 15-44 age groups respectively.

The proportion of total activity conducted as day cases increased annually for the 65+ age group from 22.2% in 1994 to 41.8% in 2001 whereas trend fluctuations were experienced by the other age groups from 1998 to 2001, Table 3.2 and Figure 9. The 56.2% proportion for the 45-64 age group in 2001 was the highest recorded. Only a third (34.3%) of children's discharges were treated as day cases in 2001.

Day cases as a proportion of all elective cases increased from 51.5% in 1994 to 71.9% in 2001, Table 3.3. As with total activity proportions, the 65+ rate increased annually, whereas some fluctuations were experienced by the other age groups, Figure 10. In 2001, three-quarters of elective cases for both the 15-44 and 45-64 age groups were treated as day cases.

SOURCE OF ADMISSION

Inpatient Discharges

The numbers of inpatient discharges with an emergency source of admission increased by 17.2% between 1994 and 2001 whereas those with an elective source decreased by 22.9%, Table 4.1. Of the 148,258 inpatient discharges in 2001, 65.3% were emergencies and they used 868,757 (70.4%) bed days Table 4.2. The gap between the two sources in terms of their bed days usage has widened over the years - in 1994 the percentage split was roughly 40:60 whereas by 2001 it had become 30:70, Figure 11.

While the mean length of stay for emergencies varied by half-a-day and electives by 0.2 days over the years, the emergency means have always been greater, Table 4.3. For 2001, the mean and median lengths of stay for emergencies of 9.0 and 4 days were almost 2 days and 1 day longer than their elective equivalents.

AREA OF RESIDENCE

Inpatient Discharges

Of the 148,258 inpatient discharges in 2001, 78.9% related to residents of the Eastern Region and 20.3% related to residents of health board areas outside the Eastern Region, Table 5.1. These proportions changed very little between 1994 and 2001.

In 2001, over two thirds (67.2%) of the 30,069 cases from outside the region were from the three neighbouring health board areas - 9,123 from the NEHB area, 6,045 from the SEHB area and 5,037 from the MHB area. The NWHB and WHB areas accounted for a further 20.7% of inpatient activity with 3,240 and 2,973 cases respectively.

With the exception of the SEHB and MWHB areas, inflow levels are not much different than they were in 1994, Figure 12. A decrease of 1,170 cases (16.2%) was noted for the SEHB area and one of 778 cases (26.0%) for the MHB area.

Bed days used for residents of other health board areas in 2001 amounted to 269,037 (21.8%) i.e. an average daily usage of 737 beds, Table 5.2. The overall mean length of stay for residents of other health board areas has been consistently higher than that for residents of the region since 1994, Table 5.3.

Mean lengths of stay for the WHB, NWHB and MWHB areas have been consistently higher than those for other areas over the years, Figure 13. For 2001, the mean varied from 7.7 days for the NEHB area to 11.3 days for the WHB area.

Day Cases

The numbers of day cases for residents of health board areas outside the region climbed from 13,477 in 1994 to 27,906 in 2001 i.e. by 107.1%, Table 6.1. The equivalent percentage increase for residents of the region was lower at 80.3%.

As with annual inpatient activity, approximately a fifth of the total day case activity in the region's hospitals related to residents of other health board areas with the majority coming from the three neighbouring health board areas, Figure 14. For 2001, the NEHB, SEHB and MHB areas accounted for 75.2% of the inflow with 10,528, 5,550 and 4,907 cases respectively. A further 15.7% came from the NWHB (2,608) and WHB (1,770) areas.

The proportion of hospitalisations treated on a day case basis rose from 32.9% in 1994 to 46.9% in 2001 for residents of the region and from 29.6% to 48.1% over the same time period for residents of other health board areas combined, Table 6.2. For 2001, the proportions recorded for each of the three neighbouring health board areas were higher than the proportion recorded for the region's residents – 53.6% for the NEHB area, 49.3% for the MHB area and 47.9% for the SEHB area. The WHB area had the lowest rate of 37.3% in 2001.

In 2001, 76.0% of the elective caseload for residents of the region were treated as day cases in comparison with 57.1% for 1994. While inflow equivalents were consistently lower over time, a greater shift occurred in their activity as their proportions increased from 36.3% in 1994 to 59.9% in 2001. A significant factor for consideration when evaluating these area differences is that the elective:emergency inpatient divide for the two subgroups is extremely different. In 2001, for residents of the region it was 28%:72% whereas for residents of other health board areas it was practically reversed with a 62:38 split.

CATEGORY OF PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS

Inpatient Discharges

The five most common categories of illness (as defined by ICD-9-CM) in 2001 were:-

Category	Discharges %	BDU %	Mean LOS
Injury and Poisoning	13.9	10.0	6.0
Circulatory	13.3	19.6	12.3
Respiratory	11.3	11.1	8.2
Digestive	10.1	9.2	7.5
Neoplasms	9.4	15.4	13.7

and they accounted for 58.0% of inpatient discharges, Table 7.1. The same five categories used 65.3% of the 1,234,583 bed days in 2001 but their ranking altered as neoplasms used the second largest proportion of bed days i.e. 15.4% and had the longest length of stay of 13.7 days, Tables 7.2 and 7.3.

While, in general, these distributions were consistent over time, some changes of note did occur between 1994 and 2001:-

- the numbers of inpatient discharges due to musculoskeletal diseases dropped from 8,434 to 6,714 (20.4%) and their bed days used fell from 74,256 to 60,245 (18.9%) ;
- the numbers of inpatient discharges due to nervous system/sensory organs disorders fell from 10,831 to 7,885 (27.2%) and their bed day used decreased from 66,972 to 55,693 (16.8%);

- bed days used for infectious diseases fell by almost a third (32.4%) even though the numbers of discharges decreased by only 0.9%. This caused a major shift in length of stay - its mean and median in 1994 were 11.2 and 4 days respectively whereas in 2001 its mean was down to 7.6 and its median to 3 days; and

- a 19.0% increase in the numbers of blood disorder discharges was recorded as well as a 10.5% increase in their bed days used.

Day Cases

Of the 131,546 day cases in 2001, the main categories of diagnoses were:-

Category	Discharges %
Supplementary	21.0
Neoplasms	16.7
Digestive	13.3
Genitourinary	8.7
Nervous system/sensory organs	7.6
Skin	7.0

and they accounted for 74.3% of day cases, Table 8.1. The main reasons for care from 1995 to 2001 fell into the category 'supplementary classifications' which relates to situations where some problem or circumstance affects the patient's health status but he/she is not currently ill or injured. Chemotherapy and orthopaedic aftercare (removal of pins/screws/plates etc) constitute the majority of such cases.

Between 1994 and 2001, day cases increased numerically for all categories of illness except congenital anomalies. In fact, there was more than a twofold increase for endocrine, supplementary classifications, neoplasms, genitourinary, circulatory and blood categories.

In 2001, over 50% of all cases were treated as day cases in the following categories:-

Category	% Total	% Elective
Supplementary	85.7	87.1
Skin	72.9	89.0
Neoplasms	61.2	71.3
Blood	57.4	84.9
Endocrine	56.2	77.9
Nervous system/sensory organs	55.8	67.0
Digestive	53.9	79.5
Genitourinary	50.7	67.1

Their corresponding proportions of elective cases also tended to be high but the levels recorded for neoplasms, nervous system/sensory organs and genitourinary categories fell short of the 71.9% recorded overall, Tables 8.2 and 8.3. At the other end of the scale, respiratory diseases had only 6.9% of its total caseload and 21.9% of its elective caseload treated as day cases.

With the exception of perinatal conditions, both proportions for each category in 2001 show increases on their 1994 levels. The increases incurred by endocrine disorders, circulatory diseases and musculoskeletal diseases were most substantial.

SECTION 2: SUBGROUP ANALYSIS BY CATEGORY OF PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS

CHILDREN (under 15 years)

Inpatient Discharge:

There were 27,825 inpatient discharges for children in 2001, a drop of 11.9% on the 1994 number, and they used 131,464 bed days, Tables 9.1 and 9.2. Excluding perinatal conditions, their main reasons for care were:

Category	Discharges %	BDU %
Respiratory	17.6	13.2
Injury and poisoning	16.1	8.7
Congenital anomalies	8.9	13.7
Infectious diseases	8.6	6.6
Digestive	8.2	7.3

Substantial changes were observed for some of the categories between 1994 and 2001. For neoplasms, the numbers of inpatient discharges were more or less halved (55.5% decrease) and bed days used decreased by 27.8%. Musculoskeletal diseases experienced a 48.5% decrease in inpatient discharges matched by a 47.5% decrease in bed days. However, trends were not always downwards e.g. discharges due to supplementary classifications increased by 57.1% and their bed days by 23.6% and blood disorder discharges increased by 28.7% and their bed days by 13.2%.

Despite a 14.3% increase in the number of discharges from 1994 to 2001 for infectious diseases, a 63.6% decrease in bed days used occurred for the same category resulting in a fall in mean los from 11.4 in 1994 to 3.6 in 2001, Table 9.3. Similarly, a 16.8% increase in circulatory cases was accompanied by a 25.4% decrease in their bed days used.

There was considerable length of stay variation by category of illness. Excluding perinatal conditions, circulatory disorders had the highest mean length of stay of 7.7 days while injury and poisoning had the shortest one of 2.5 days. With the exception of congenital anomalies and perinatal conditions, each category's mean length of stay for this age group was shorter than that recorded for all ages, Table 7.3.

Day Cases

The main reasons for care for the 14,498 day cases recorded for children in 2001, Table 10.1, were:-

Category	Discharges %
Supplementary	22.2
Genitourinary	17.7
Nervous system/sensory organs	14.7
Congenital anomalies	11.6
Digestive	8.3
Neoplasms	7.0

The greatest downward change occurred for nervous system/sensory organs as it ranked first in 1994 with a 24.6% proportion of cases whereas by 2001 it had slipped to third position with a 14.7% proportion. While decreases over time also occurred for infectious diseases and skin diseases, increases, of up to a maximum of 182.7% for supplementary classifications, were recorded for all other categories.

Excluding supplementary classifications, children's day case activity as a proportion of total activity was highest for genitourinary diseases at 69.0% in 2001, increasing from 52.1% in 1994, Table 10.2. Only 3.5% of respiratory diseases in children were treated as day cases. The proportions recorded in 2001

were the highest yet for digestive, musculoskeletal and injuries whereas levels had peaked earlier for all other categories.

For children, day case activity as a percentage of elective activity amounted to over 80% for genitourinary diseases (86.9%), skin (83.4%) and supplementary classifications (80.7%), Table 10.3. Only 9.6% of elective respiratory cases in children cases were treated as day cases. The highest proportions since 1994 were observed for digestive, skin, congenital anomalies and injuries in 2001 whereas earlier peaks were noted for all other categories.

OLDER PERSONS (65 years and older)

Inpatient Discharges

The numbers of inpatient discharges for those persons aged 65+ decreased from 43,630 in 1995 to 40,952 in 1998 and increased up to 43,108 in 2001, Table 11.1. Similarly, bed days used fell to a low of 518,709 in 1998 but increased thereafter by 9.9% to the highest yet recorded sum of 569,882, Table 11.2. The main reasons for care in 2001 were:

Category	Discharges %	BDU %
Circulatory	25.4	28.7
Neoplasms	13.0	16.3
Respiratory	11.5	12.9
Injury and poisoning	8.8	8.9
Digestive	8.2	7.0
Ill-Defined	7.5	4.1
Nervous system/sensory organs	6.7	3.8

and these diagnostic categories have dominated since 1994. However, some changes did occur over the years - a 30.9% decrease in discharges for nervous system/sensory organs was accompanied by a 27.8% decrease in bed days used, and both discharges and bed days used for respiratory diseases increased by 14.3% and 9.7% respectively.

The mean los for inpatient discharges aged 65+ ranged from 12.5 days in 1996 and 1997 to 13.2 days in 2001, Table 11.3. The highest mean los in 2001 was for infectious diseases with 21.5 days followed by neoplasms with 16.6 days and endocrine with 15.1 days. With the exception of perinatal conditions, each category's mean length of stay for this age group in 2001 was longer than its equivalent for all ages, Table 7.3. Indeed, for infectious diseases and for injuries and poisonings, the older persons' mean lengths of stay were more than twice as long as those for all ages.

Day Cases

The main reasons for care for the 31,007 day cases in the 65+ age group in 2001 were, Table 12.1:-

Category	Discharges %
Neoplasms	21.1
Supplementary	20.8
Nervous system/sensory organs	13.8
Digestive	12.0
Circulatory	7.6
Skin	7.2

The numerical increases which occurred for all categories of illness between 1994 and 2001 varied from as little as 11.5% for congenital anomalies to as much as 310.1% for endocrine disorders.

Day case activity as a percentage of total activity for this 65+ age group rose steadily from 22.2% in 1994 to 41.8% in 2001, Table 12.2. Steady upward trends were also recorded for neoplasms, circulatory, skin and nervous system/sensory organs. In 2001, 85.8% of supplementary classifications were conducted as day cases as were over half of skin (75.2%), nervous/sensory organs (59.6%), neoplasms (53.8%) and digestive (51.4%).

Day case activity as a percentage of elective activity rose also climbed steadily from 40.4% in 1994 to 68.8% in 2001, Table 12.3. Levels varied by category in 2001 from just 18.3% for injury and poisoning to 91.0% for skin diseases.

ELECTIVE SOURCES OF ADMISSION

Inpatient Discharges

Elective sources of admission accounted for 34.7% of inpatient discharges and 29.6% of bed days used in 2001, Tables 4.1 and 4.2. Their main reasons for admission in 2001 were, Tables 13.1 and 13.2:-

Category	Discharges %	BDU %
Neoplasms	17.2	29.2
Genitourinary	10.9	7.3
Circulatory	9.8	11.4
Nervous system/sensory organs	9.5	6.1
Musculoskeletal	8.9	10.4
Digestive	8.8	6.7
Respiratory	8.6	5.2

With the exception of perinatal conditions, infectious diseases and supplementary classifications, the numbers of discharges and bed days used declined in all categories between 1994 and 2001. That downward swing was greatest for nervous system/sensory organs where there was a 40% decline in both indicators.

Overall, there were only slight variations in the mean length of stay over the years while the median was a steady 3 days, Table 13.3. The overall mean length of stay in 2001 was 7.1 days with longer ones recorded for the following:-

Category	Mean LOS	Median LOS
Neoplasms	12.1	7
Infectious diseases	10.4	3
Skin	10.2	5
Injury and poisoning	9.5	4
Circulatory	8.3	4
Musculoskeletal	8.3	5
Blood	7.2	4

EMERGENCY SOURCES OF ADMISSION

Inpatient Discharges

Emergency sources of admission accounted for 65.3% of inpatient discharges in 2001 and 70.4% of bed days used, Tables 4.1 and 4.2. In 2001, the main reasons for emergencies were, Tables 14.1 and 14.2:-

Category	Discharges %	BDU %
Injury and poisoning	20.0	12.8
Circulatory	15.2	23.0
Respiratory	12.7	13.6
Ill-defined	11.7	6.1
Digestive	10.8	10.2

and this distribution pattern has been consistent since 1994.

Excluding the infectious diseases category, the numbers of emergency admissions and bed days used increased for all categories. Since 1994, bed days used for emergency neoplasms have increased by 37.6% from 60,730 to 83,550.

The mean length of stay for emergencies in 2001 was 9.0 days, the highest recorded since 1995, Table 14.3. A median los of 4 days was recorded annually from 1996 to 2001 inclusive. Neoplasms accounted for the longest length of stay in 2001 with a mean of 16.4 days and a median of 11 days. Mean lengths of stay for circulatory, congenital anomalies, perinatal conditions, nervous system/sensory organs, endocrine and musculoskeletal also ran into double-digits in 2001.

AREA OF RESIDENCE

Inpatient Discharges

In 2001, 20.3% of inpatient discharges and 21.8% of bed days related to residents of health board areas outside the Eastern Region, Tables 5.1 and 5.2. Discharge proportions for the main diagnostic categories by area of residence were, Tables 15.1 and 18.1:-

Category	Eastern Region %	Other HB Areas %
Injury and poisoning	14.8	10.2
Circulatory	13.5	12.5
Respiratory	12.8	5.5
Digestive	10.8	7.3
Ill-defined	10.1	5.9
Neoplasms	7.8	15.7
Genitourinary	7.2	9.0
Nervous system/sensory organs	4.6	8.0

Of particular note are the area of residence variations for neoplasms, respiratory diseases, and to a lesser extent, nervous system/sense organs. Neoplasms were the main reason for care for residents of other health board areas accounting for 15.7% of their discharges in comparison with 7.8% of discharges for residents of the region.

Inpatient discharges relating to residents of other health board areas as a percentage of all inpatient discharges ranged from 9.9% for respiratory diseases to 30.7% for nervous system/sensory organs to 34.0% for neoplasms to as high as 51.3% for congenital anomalies.

A 20.7% decline since 1994 in the numbers outside the region who were treated for neoplasms was observed whereas the numbers of resident discharges increased by 6.8% over the same time period. Nervous system/sensory organs category had its numbers reduced by a quarter for both area subgroups and musculoskeletal decreased by 28.5% for other areas and by 17.2% for the region.

Over a quarter (27.9%) of bed days used by residents of other areas related to neoplasms in comparison with a 12.0% equivalent for residents of the region, Tables 16.2 and 18.2. In terms of bed days, the main category of care for residents of the region was circulatory diseases as it used a 21.2% share.

For infectious diseases, neoplasms, skin diseases and perinatal conditons, mean lengths of stay for residents of other areas were at least 3 days longer than those recorded for their regional counterparts, Tables 16.3 and 18.3. The converse applied to circulatory diseases.

Inpatient Discharges with Elective Sources of Admission

Of the 117,049 inpatient discharges recorded for residents of the region in 2001, 32,563 or 27.8% had elective sources of admission, Tables 5.1 and 16.1. The equivalent percentage for residents of other health board areas was substantially higher at 62.2% as 18,693 of the 30,069 inflow were elective inpatient cases, Table 19.1.

The 2001 discharge proportions for the main diagnostic categories by area of residence were:-

Category	Eastern Region %	Other HB Areas %
Neoplasms	16.1	19.1
Genitourinary	11.7	9.6
Respiratory	10.8	4.8
Digestive	9.8	7.0
Nervous system/sensory organs	9.2	10.2
Musculoskeletal	9.1	8.4
Circulatory	8.8	11.4
Supplementary	6.5	10.4

Nearly a fifth of the elective inflow into the region's hospitals came for treatment of neoplasms and they used 37.1% of their elective bed days in doing so while their regional counterparts used a lesser bed days share of 23.5%, Tables 16.2 and 19.2. These proportions produced mean lengths of stay as diverse as 16.2 and 9.4 days respectively, Tables 16.3 and 19.3. Indeed, overall and, with the exception of musculoskeletal diseases, for each diagnostic category the mean lengths of stay for residents of other areas were either on a par or longer than the means for the region's residents.

Of the 51,466 elective cases treated in 2001, 36.3% related to residents from outside the region and this proportion was even higher for congenital anomalies (54.8%), supplementary classifications (47.5%), circulatory (42.5%), endocrine (41.3%), neoplasms (40.3%) and nervous system/sensory organs (38.8%).

A decline in the overall numbers of inpatient discharges with elective sources of admission was observed for both area subgroups between 1994 to 2001 - 24.1% for residents of the region and 21.0% for residents of other areas. Similarly, but with the exception of perinatal conditions and supplementary classifications, decreases occurred in all diagnostic categories for both subgroups.

Day Cases

In 2001, the main categories of diagnosis for day cases by area of residence were, Tables 17.1 and 20.1:-

Category	Eastern Region %	Other HB Areas %
Supplementary	20.0	24.9
Neoplasms	16.7	16.6
Digestive	14.7	8.4
Genitourinary	8.8	8.4
Skin	7.8	4.0
Nervous system/sensory organs	7.3	8.5
Circulatory	4.6	9.3

The proportion of supplementary classification day cases for residents of other areas was higher at 24.9% than the 20.0% recorded for residents of the region. Higher proportions for other areas were also recorded for nervous system/sensory organs and circulatory diseases. With the exception of congenital anomalies, 2001 activity for both area subgroups was an increase on 1994 levels for all categories.

Day cases from other health board areas constituted 21.2% of all day cases in 2001. That proportion rose to over a third where congenital anomalies (36.9%) and circulatory diseases (35.1%) were concerned.

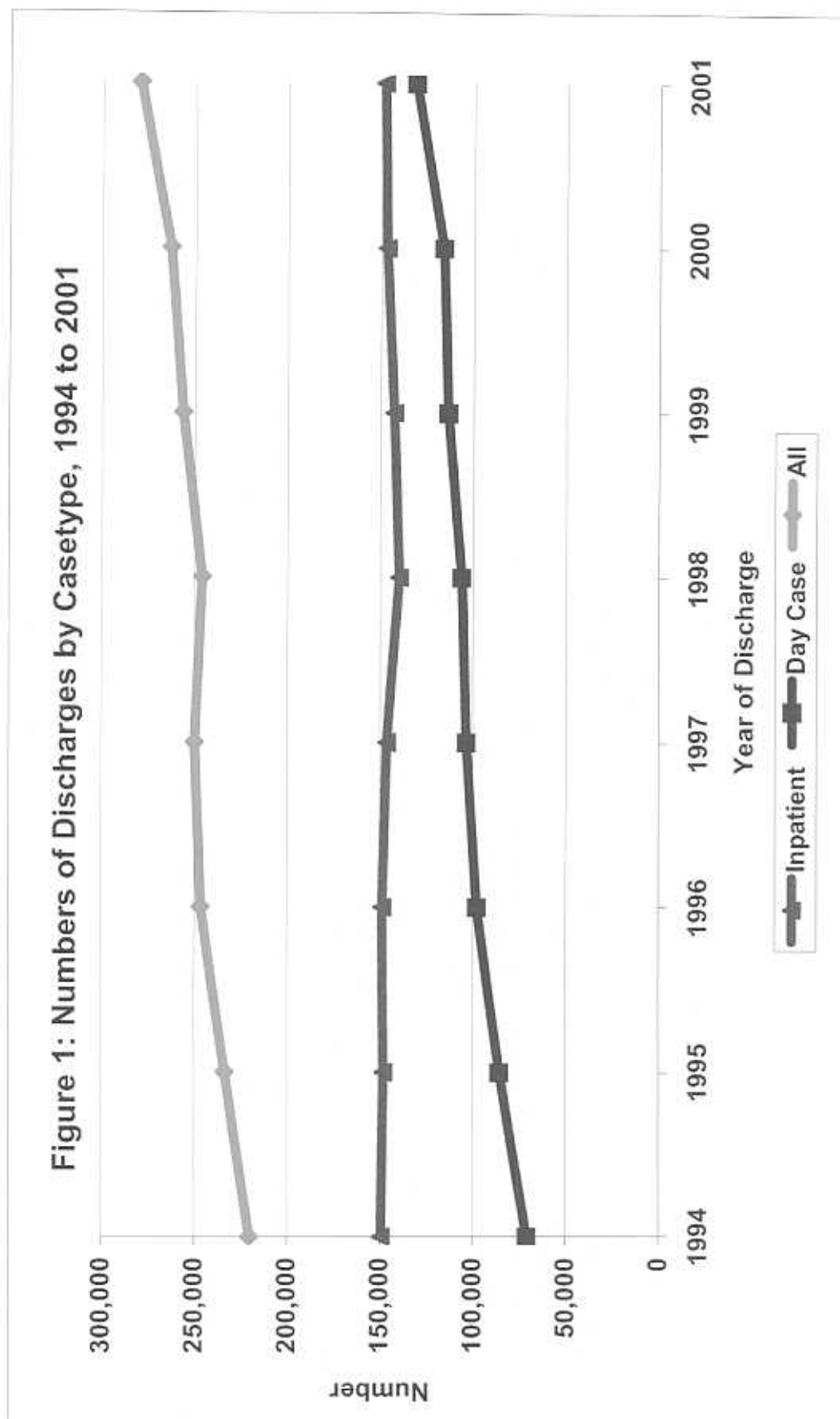
For infectious, blood, circulatory, respiratory, ill-defined and injuries categories, day case activity as a percentage of total activity in 2001 was higher for residents for other areas than for residents of the region, Tables 17.2 and 19.2. This comparison was at its most extreme for circulatory diseases, 40.9% v. 23.3%. On the other hand, the residents' percentage for neoplasms was higher than the percentage for residents outside the region, 65.4% v 49.5%.

With the exception of respiratory diseases and perinatal conditions, day case activity as a percentage of elective activity was higher for all diagnostic categories for residents of the region than for residents of other health board areas outside the region.

TABLE 1.1
ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF DISCHARGES BY CASETYPE, 1994 TO 2001 *

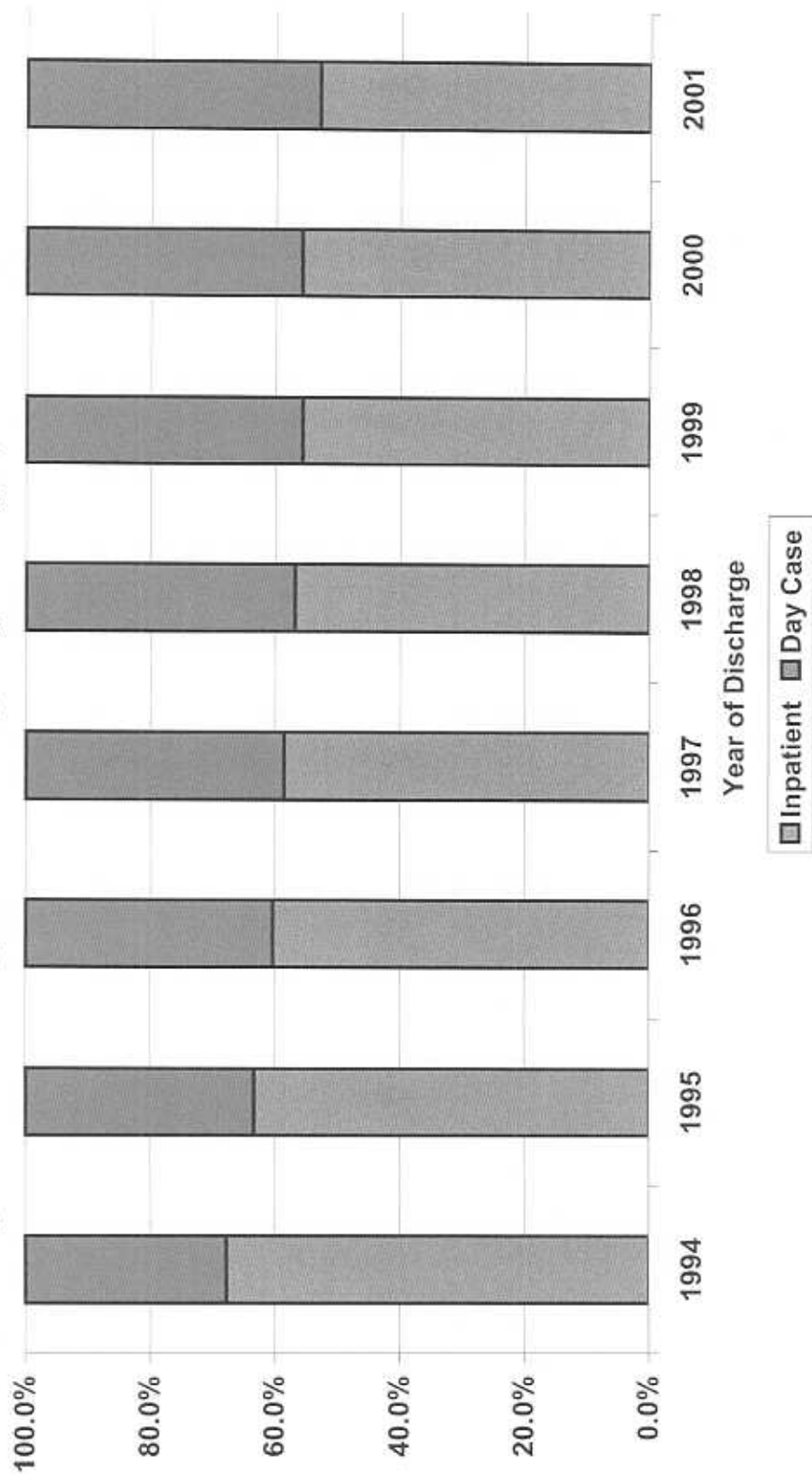
CASETYPE		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Inpatient	N	149,363	147,998	148,667	146,483	139,755	142,753	146,904	148,258
	%	67.8	63.4	60.3	58.6	56.8	55.7	55.8	53.0
Day Case	N	70,919	85,476	97,762	103,521	106,136	113,588	116,344	131,546
	%	32.2	36.6	39.7	41.4	43.2	44.3	44.2	47.0
Total	N	220,282	233,474	246,429	250,004	245,891	256,341	263,248	279,804
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.
Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.



Source: Table 1.1.

Figure 2: Percentages of Discharges by Casetype, 1994 to 2001



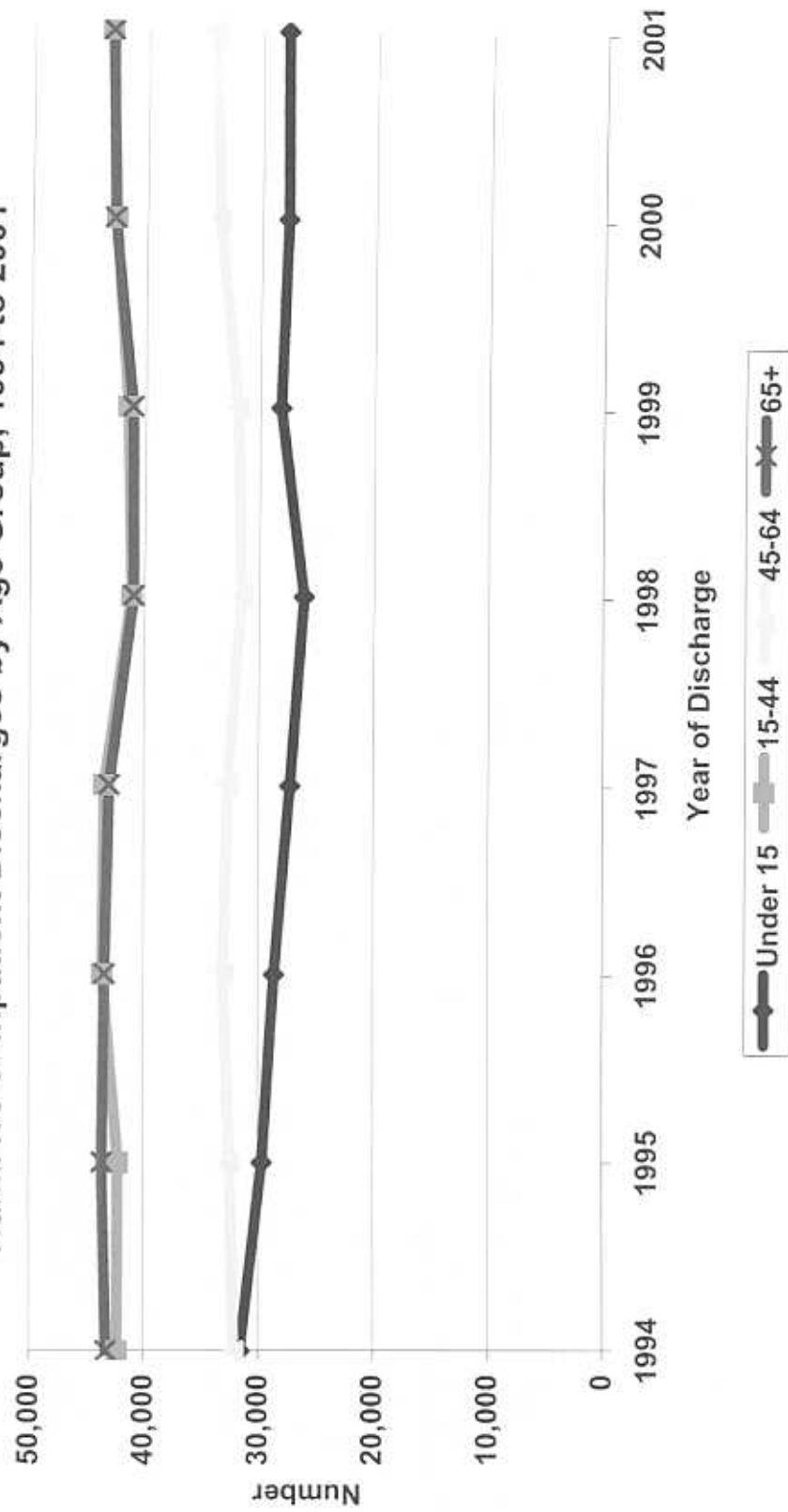
Source: Table 1.1.

TABLE 2.1
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF DISCHARGES BY AGE GROUP, 1994 TO 2001 *

AGE GROUP		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 15	N	31,589	29,660	28,610	27,262	26,104	28,204	27,675	27,825
	%	21.2	20.0	19.2	18.6	18.7	19.8	18.8	18.8
15-44	N	42,336	42,225	43,599	43,477	41,163	41,533	42,727	43,190
	%	28.3	28.5	29.3	29.7	29.5	29.1	29.1	29.1
45-64	N	32,151	32,483	33,071	32,708	31,536	31,915	33,670	34,135
	%	21.5	22.0	22.3	22.3	22.6	22.4	22.9	23.0
65+	N	43,287	43,630	43,387	43,036	40,952	41,101	42,832	43,108
	%	29.0	29.5	29.2	29.4	29.3	28.8	29.2	29.1
Total	N	149,363	147,998	148,667	146,483	139,755	142,753	146,904	148,258
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.
Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 3
Numbers of Inpatient Discharges by Age Group, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 2.1.

TABLE 2.2
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF BED DAYS USED BY AGE GROUP, 1994 TO 2001 *

AGE GROUP		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 15	N	143,605	123,744	117,579	117,124	120,009	134,147	130,365	131,464
	%	11.7	10.3	9.9	10.0	10.5	11.5	10.9	10.6
15-44	N	236,524	243,743	239,285	232,111	225,057	228,425	230,072	232,543
	%	19.2	20.2	20.1	19.8	19.6	19.5	19.2	18.8
45-64	N	284,345	288,291	290,659	283,856	281,966	287,704	298,341	300,694
	%	23.1	23.9	24.5	24.2	24.6	24.6	24.8	24.4
65+	N	566,581	549,482	540,374	539,076	518,709	519,566	542,282	569,882
	%	46.0	45.6	45.5	46.0	45.3	44.4	45.2	46.2
Total	N	1,231,055	1,205,260	1,187,897	1,172,167	1,145,741	1,169,842	1,201,060	1,234,583
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.

Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 4
Percentages of Inpatient Discharges by Age Group, 2001

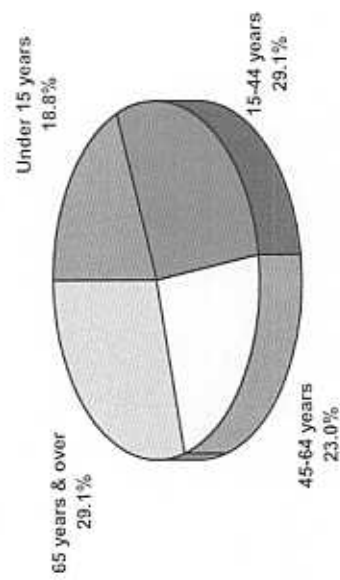
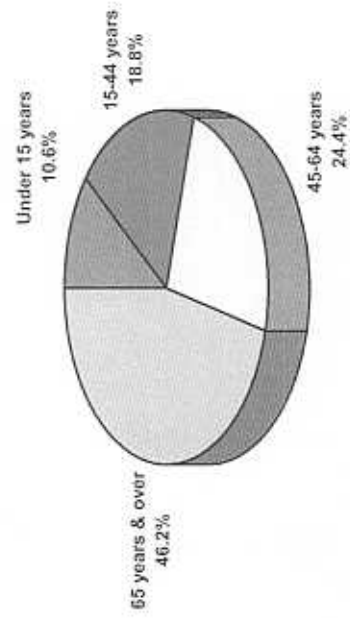


Figure 5
Percentages of Bed Days Used by Age Group, 2001



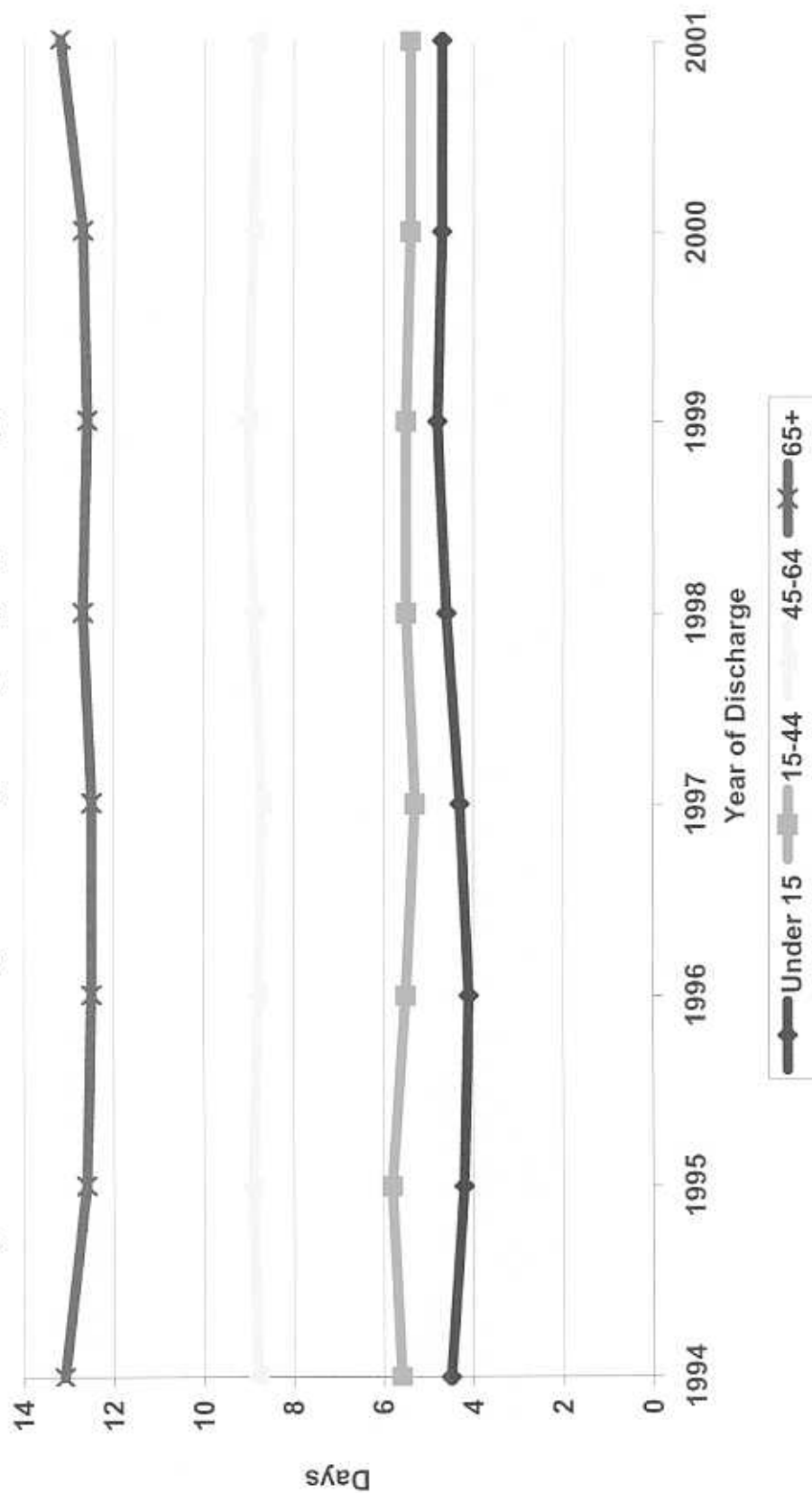
Source: Tables 2.1 and 2.2.

TABLE 2.3
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
MEAN AND MEDIAN LENGTHS OF STAY IN DAYS BY AGE GROUP, 1994 TO 2001 *

AGE GROUP		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 15	Mean	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.7
	Median	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
15-44	Mean	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4
	Median	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
45-64	Mean	8.8	8.9	8.8	8.7	8.9	9.0	8.9	8.8
	Median	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
65+	Mean	13.1	12.6	12.5	12.5	12.7	12.6	12.7	13.2
	Median	8	7	8	8	8	8	7	8
Total	Mean	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.3
	Median	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.
Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 6: Mean Lengths of Stay in Days by Age Group, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 2.3.

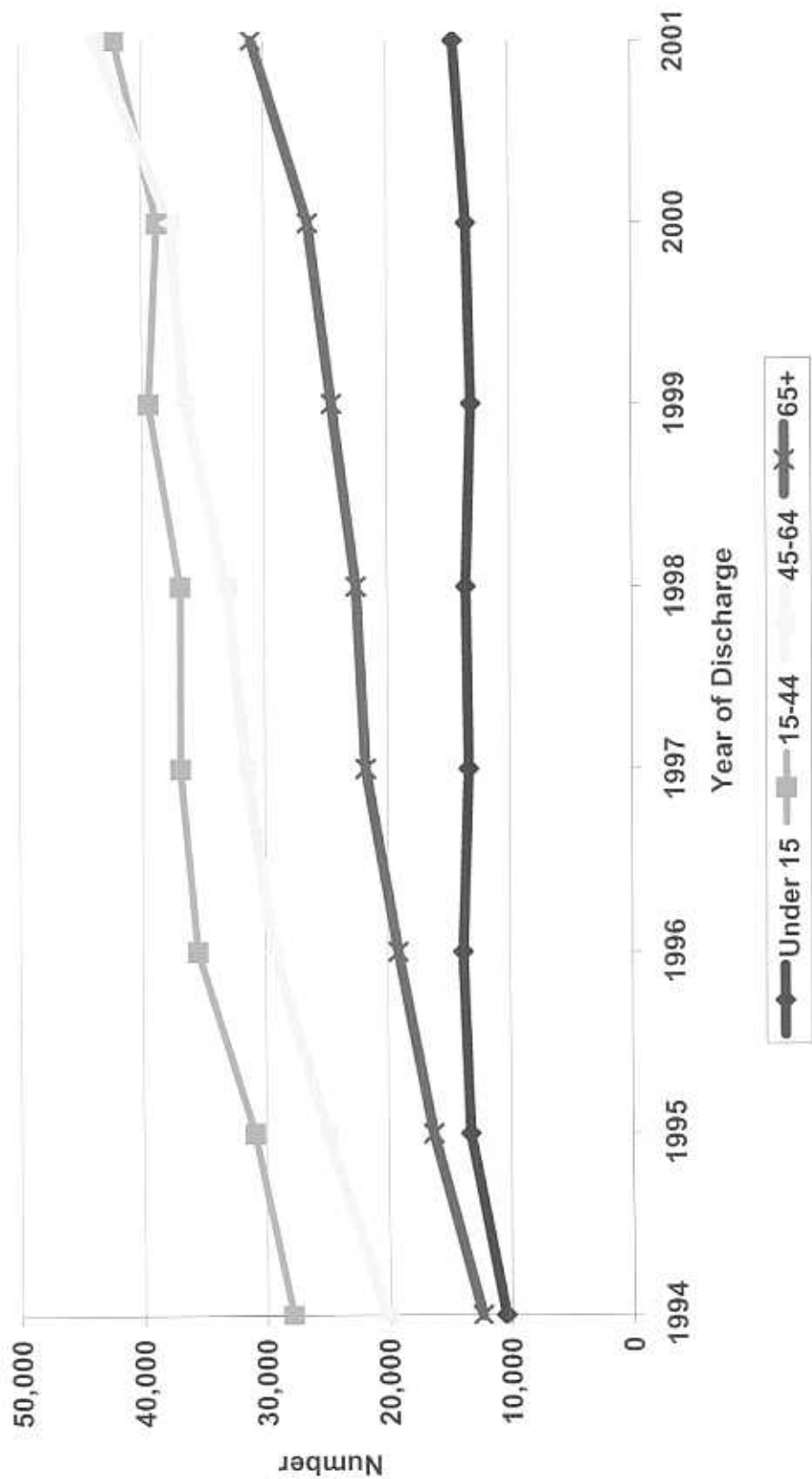
TABLE 3.1
DAY CASE ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF DAY CASES BY AGE GROUP, 1994 TO 2001 *

AGE GROUP		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 15	N	10,474	13,290	13,815	13,321	13,558	13,125	13,496	14,498
	%	14.8	15.6	14.1	12.9	12.8	11.6	11.6	11.0
15-44	N	27,843	30,909	35,529	36,906	36,907	39,464	38,749	42,226
	%	39.3	36.2	36.3	35.7	34.8	34.7	33.3	32.1
45-64	N	20,215	24,991	29,292	31,529	33,116	36,486	37,690	43,815
	%	28.5	29.2	30.0	30.5	31.2	32.1	32.4	33.3
65+	N	12,387	16,286	19,126	21,765	22,555	24,513	26,409	31,007
	%	17.5	19.1	19.6	21.0	21.3	21.6	22.7	23.6
Total	N	70,919	85,476	97,762	103,521	106,136	113,588	116,344	131,546
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.

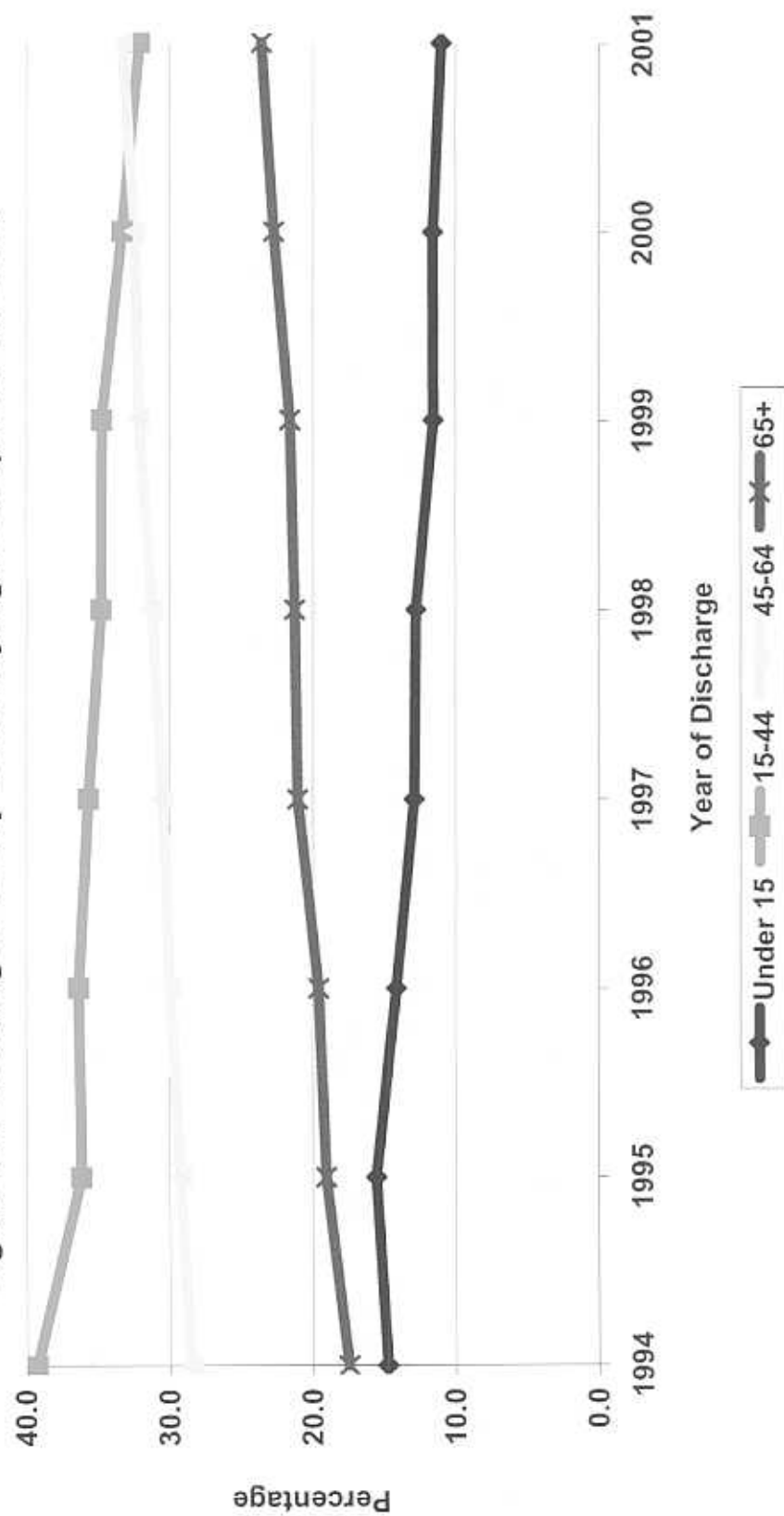
Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 7: Numbers of Day Cases by Age Group, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 3.1.

Figure 8: Percentages of Day Cases by Age Group, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 3.1.

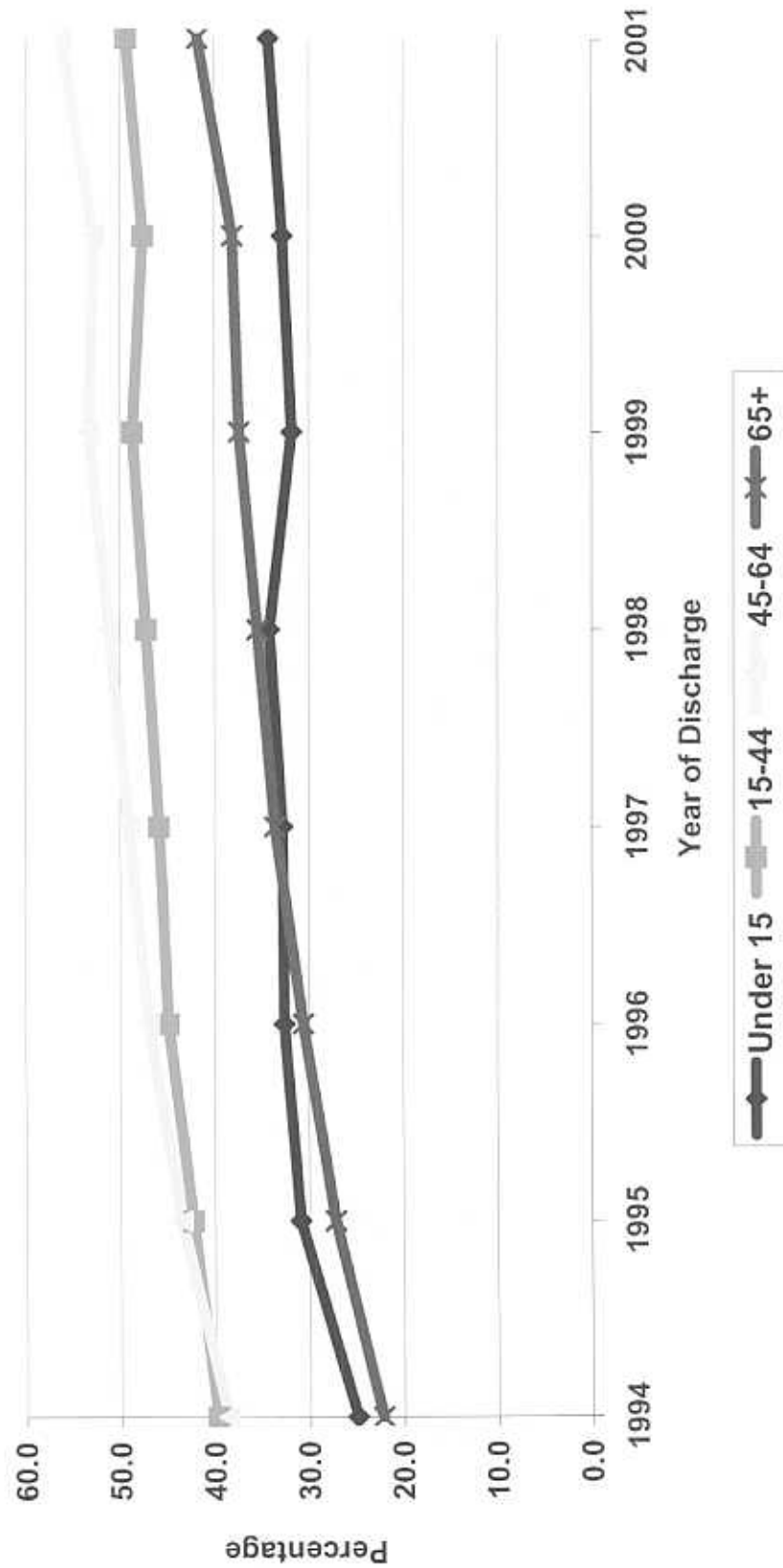
TABLE 3.2
DAY CASE ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ACTIVITY BY AGE GROUP, 1994 TO 2001 *

AGE GROUP	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 15	24.9	30.9	32.6	32.8	34.2	31.8	32.8	34.3
15-44	39.7	42.3	44.9	45.9	47.3	48.7	47.6	49.4
45-64	38.6	43.5	47.0	49.1	51.2	53.3	52.8	56.2
65+	22.2	27.2	30.6	33.6	35.5	37.4	38.1	41.8
Total	32.2	36.6	39.7	41.4	43.2	44.3	44.2	47.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.

Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 9: Day Cases as a Percentage of Total Activity
by Age Group, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 3.2.

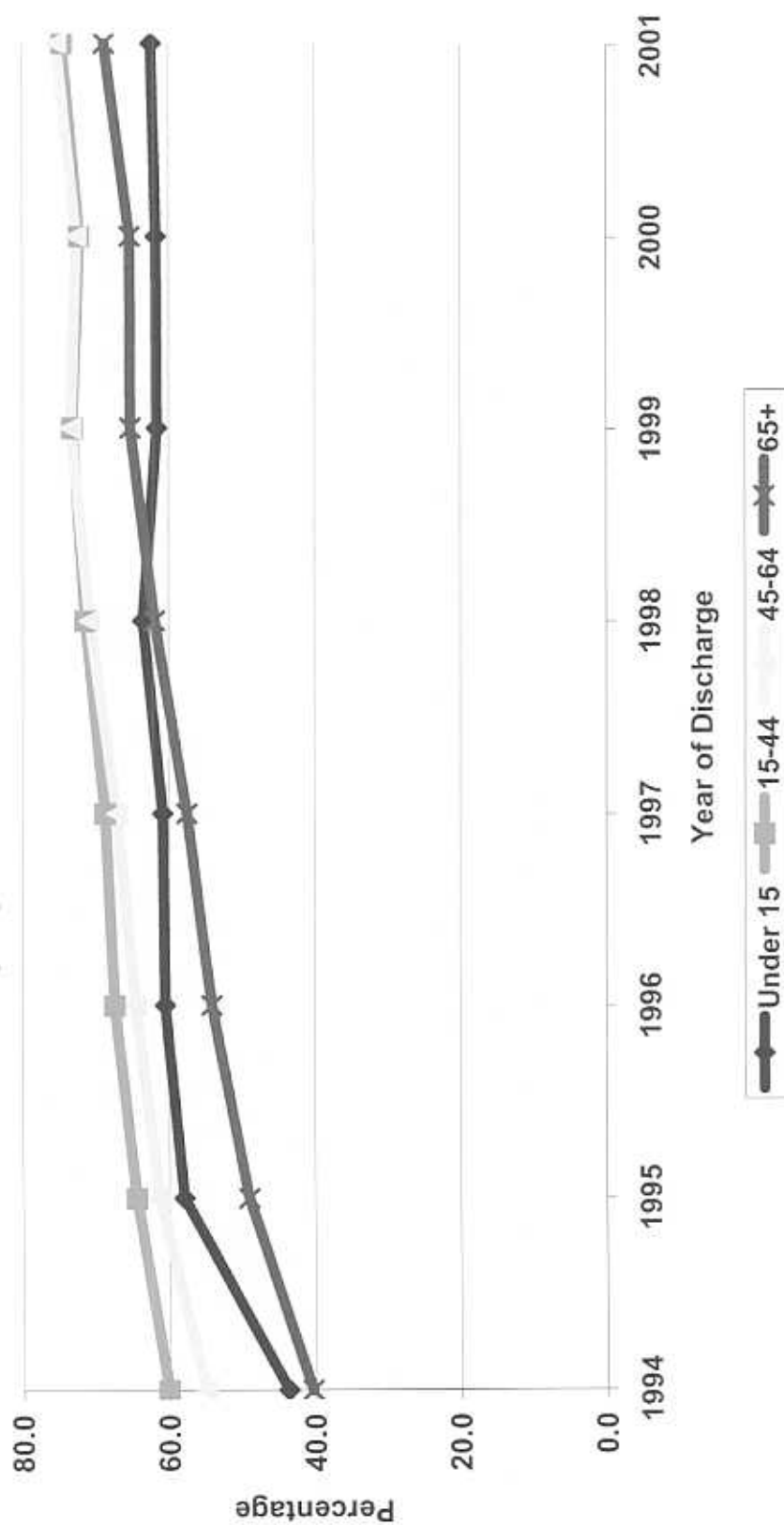
TABLE 3.3
DAY CASE ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
AS A PERCENTAGE OF ELECTIVE ACTIVITY BY AGE GROUP, 1994 TO 2001 *

AGE GROUP	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Under 15	43.7	57.9	60.5	60.8	63.5	61.6	61.7	62.4
15-44	60.1	64.4	67.4	68.7	71.4	73.2	72.2	74.6
45-64	55.0	61.3	64.5	67.1	70.8	73.4	72.6	75.4
65+	40.4	49.0	54.1	57.5	61.9	65.2	65.3	68.8
Total	51.5	58.9	62.6	64.5	67.9	69.9	69.3	71.9

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.

Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 10: Day Cases as a Percentage of Elective Activity
by Age Group, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 3.3.

TABLE 4.1
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF DISCHARGES BY SOURCE OF ADMISSION, 1994 TO 2001 *

SOURCE OF ADMISSION		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Elective	N	66,787	59,522	58,517	56,968	50,143	48,957	51,564	51,466
	%	44.7	40.2	39.4	38.9	35.9	34.3	35.1	34.7
Emergency	N	82,576	88,476	90,150	89,515	89,612	93,796	95,340	96,792
	%	55.3	59.8	60.6	61.1	64.1	65.7	64.9	65.3
Total	N	149,363	147,998	148,667	146,483	139,755	142,753	146,904	148,258
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.

Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

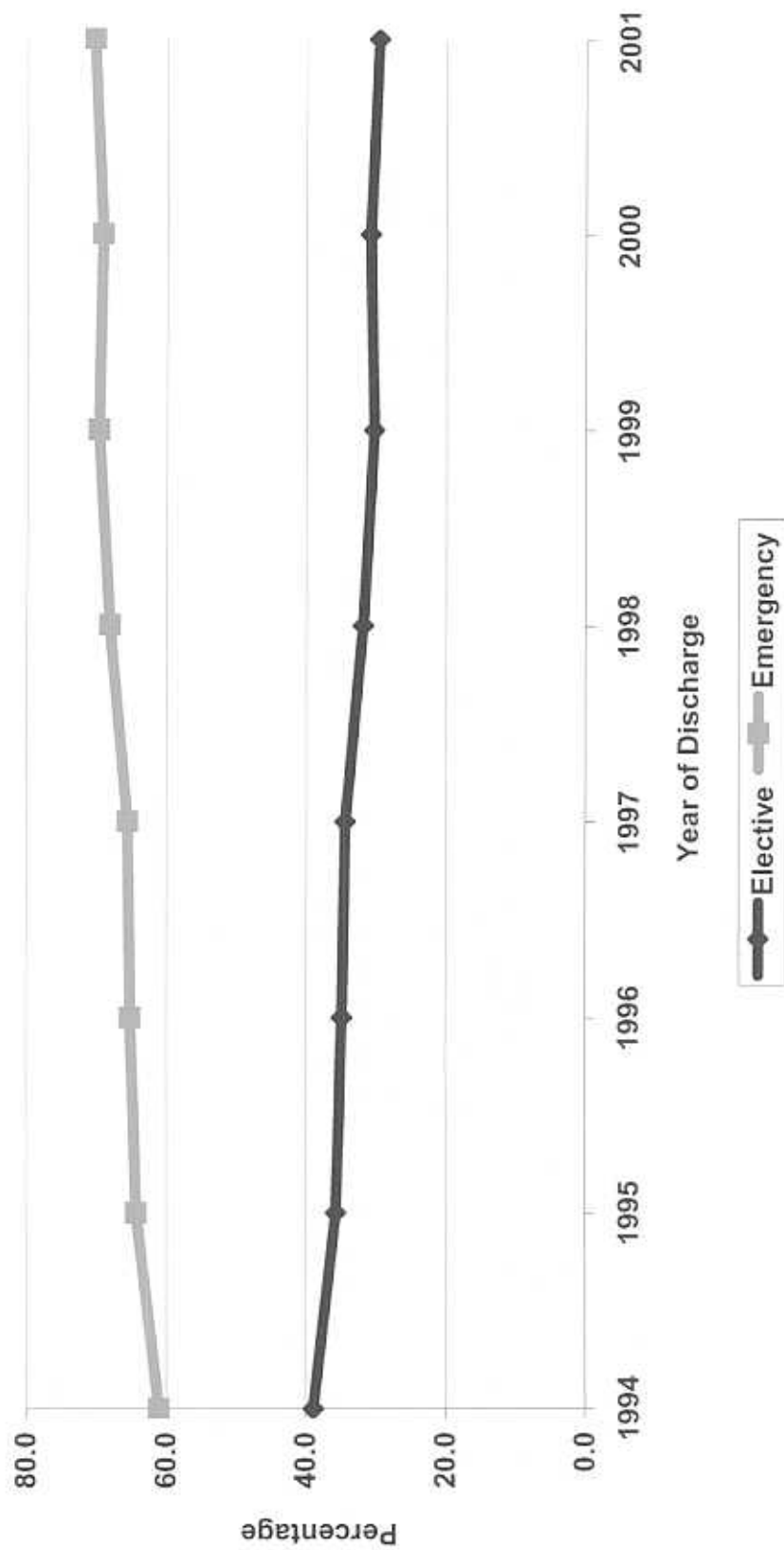
TABLE 4.2
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF BED DAYS USED BY SOURCE OF ADMISSION, 1994 TO 2001*

SOURCE OF ADMISSION		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Elective	N	479,205	430,347	413,738	403,252	365,036	354,353	370,359	365,826
	%	38.9	35.7	34.8	34.4	31.9	30.3	30.8	29.6
Emergency	N	751,850	774,913	774,159	768,915	780,705	815,489	830,701	868,757
	%	61.1	64.3	65.2	65.6	68.1	69.7	69.2	70.4
Total	N	1,231,055	1,205,260	1,187,897	1,172,167	1,145,741	1,169,842	1,201,060	1,234,583
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.

Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 11: Percentages of Bed Days Used
by Source of Admission, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 4.2.

TABLE 4.3
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
MEAN AND MEDIAN LENGTHS OF STAY IN DAYS BY SOURCE OF ADMISSION, 1994 TO 2001 *

SOURCE OF ADMISSION		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Elective	Mean	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.1	7.3	7.2	7.2	7.1
	Median	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Emergency	Mean	9.1	8.8	8.6	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	9.0
	Median	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
Total	Mean	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.3
	Median	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.
Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

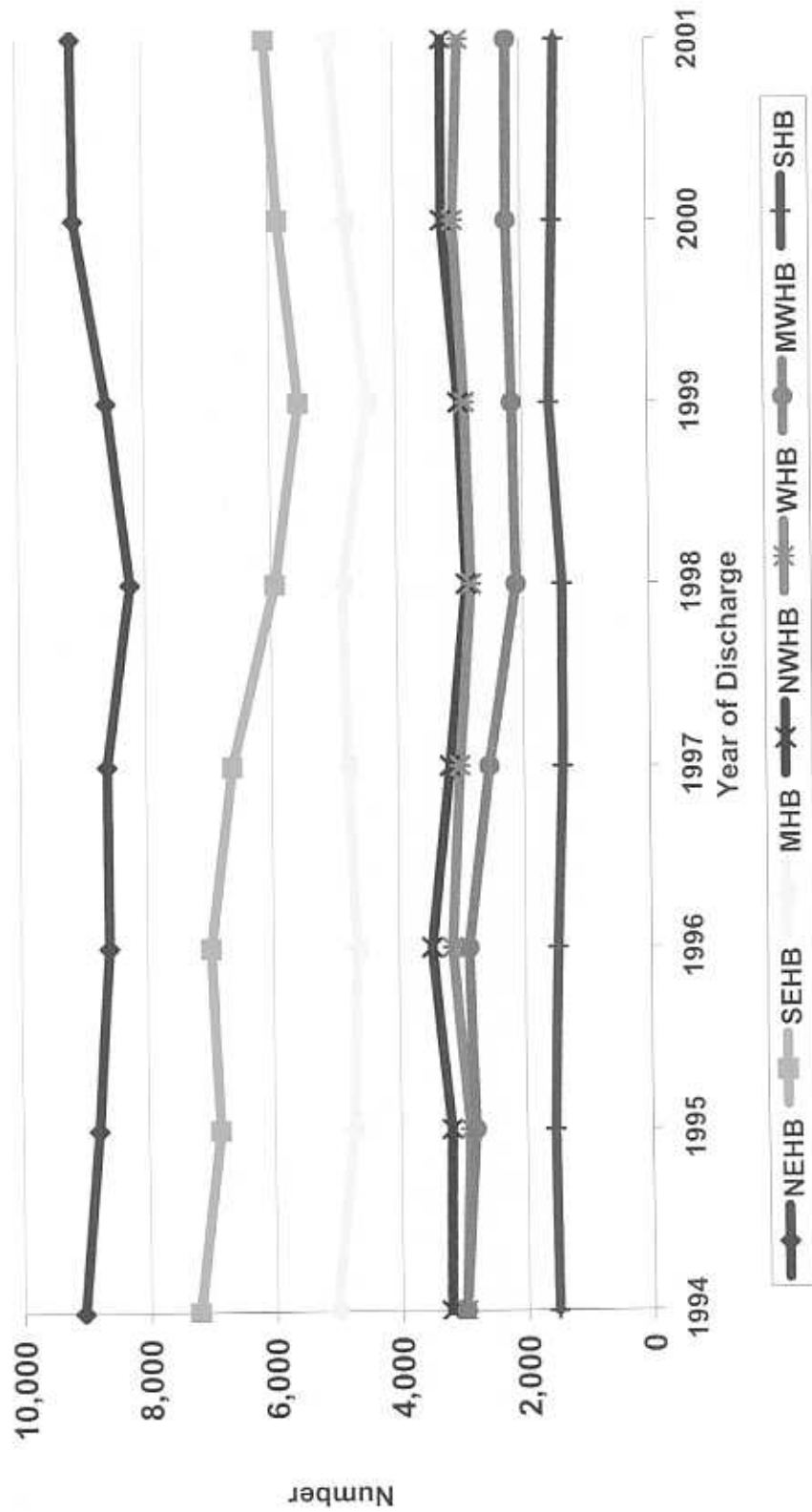
TABLE 5.1
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF DISCHARGES BY AREA OF RESIDENCE, 1994 TO 2001 *

AREA		1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
EASTERN REGION	N	116,795	116,630	116,816	115,733	110,876	113,769	116,194	117,049
	%	78.2	78.8	78.6	79.0	79.3	79.7	79.1	78.9
OTHER HB AREAS	N	32,016	30,811	31,243	30,153	28,211	28,200	29,777	30,069
	%	21.4	20.8	21.0	20.6	20.2	19.8	20.3	20.3
- MHB	N	5,052	4,735	4,664	4,792	4,857	4,450	4,792	5,037
	%	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.3	3.5	3.1	3.3	3.4
- MWHB	N	2,987	2,808	2,891	2,546	2,105	2,152	2,222	2,209
	%	2.0	1.9	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
- NEHB	N	9,041	8,789	8,601	8,619	8,233	8,594	9,094	9,123
	%	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2	6.2
- NWHB	N	3,225	3,187	3,477	3,171	2,894	3,001	3,249	3,240
	%	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2
- SEHB	N	7,215	6,860	6,986	6,630	5,933	5,540	5,857	6,045
	%	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.9	4.0	4.1
- SHB	N	1,511	1,540	1,475	1,381	1,373	1,558	1,493	1,442
	%	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0
- WHB	N	2,985	2,892	3,149	3,014	2,816	2,905	3,070	2,973
	%	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0
Outside ROI	N	552	557	608	597	668	764	933	1,140
	%	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.8
Total	N	149,363	147,998	148,667	146,483	139,755	142,753	146,904	148,258
	%	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.

Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

Figure 12: Numbers of Inpatient Discharges
from Outside the Region by HB Area, 1994 to 2001



Source: Table 5.1.

TABLE 5.2
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
NUMBERS AND PERCENTAGES OF BED DAYS USED BY AREA OF RESIDENCE, 1994 TO 2001 *

AREA	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
EASTERN REGION	942,327	76.5	919,650	76.3	906,266	76.3	903,434	77.1	890,041	77.7	909,362	77.7	933,526	77.7	957,735	77.6
OTHER HB AREAS	285,037	23.2	281,796	23.4	277,769	23.4	265,224	22.6	251,495	22.0	255,653	21.9	261,488	21.8	269,037	21.8
- MHB	41,292	3.4	40,019	3.3	38,207	3.2	37,098	3.2	38,551	3.4	37,377	3.2	38,478	3.2	43,334	3.5
- MWHB	29,209	2.4	27,484	2.3	26,867	2.3	23,986	2.0	20,418	1.8	22,773	1.9	21,130	1.8	22,709	1.8
- NEHB	72,939	5.9	72,586	6.0	70,949	6.0	69,671	5.9	67,698	5.9	70,008	6.0	70,771	5.9	70,190	5.7
- NWHB	33,078	2.7	33,919	2.8	35,185	3.0	31,993	2.7	30,094	2.6	31,999	2.7	33,456	2.8	32,726	2.7
- SEHB	63,439	5.2	60,607	5.0	60,407	5.1	58,236	5.0	52,208	4.6	48,964	4.2	50,069	4.2	54,211	4.4
- SHB	11,816	1.0	13,289	1.1	11,241	0.9	11,674	1.0	11,905	1.0	12,951	1.1	12,949	1.1	12,159	1.0
- WHB	33,264	2.7	33,892	2.8	34,913	2.9	32,566	2.8	30,621	2.7	31,581	2.7	34,635	2.9	33,708	2.7
OUTSIDE ROI	3,691	0.3	3,814	0.3	3,862	0.3	3,509	0.3	4,205	0.4	4,827	0.4	6,046	0.5	7,811	0.6
Total	1,231,055	100.0	1,205,260	100.0	1,187,897	100.0	1,172,167	100.0	1,145,741	100.0	1,169,842	100.0	1,201,060	100.0	1,234,583	100.0

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.
Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.

TABLE 5.3
INPATIENT ACTIVITY IN ACUTE PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN THE EASTERN REGION
MEAN AND MEDIAN LENGTHS OF STAY IN DAYS BY AREA OF RESIDENCE, 1994 TO 2001 *

AREA	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
EASTERN REGION	8.1	4	7.9	4	7.8	4	7.8	4	8.0	4	8.0	4	8.0	4	8.2	4
OTHER HB AREAS	8.9	4	9.1	5	8.9	4	8.8	4	8.9	4	9.1	4	8.8	4	8.9	4
- MHB	8.2	4	8.5	4	8.2	4	7.7	4	7.9	4	8.4	4	8.0	4	8.6	4
- MWHB	9.8	5	9.8	5	9.3	4	9.4	5	9.7	5	10.6	5	9.5	5	10.3	5
- NEHB	8.1	4	8.3	4	8.2	4	8.1	4	8.2	4	8.1	4	7.8	4	7.7	4
- NWHB	10.3	6	10.6	5	10.1	5	10.1	5	10.4	5	10.7	6	10.3	5	10.1	5
- SEHB	8.8	4	8.8	4	8.6	4	8.8	4	8.8	4	8.8	4	8.5	4	9.0	4
- SHB	7.8	4	8.6	4	7.6	4	8.5	4	8.7	4	8.3	4	8.7	4	8.4	4
- WHB	11.1	5	11.7	7	11.1	6	10.8	6	10.9	5	10.9	5	11.3	6	11.3	6
OUTSIDE ROI	6.7	3	6.8	4	6.4	3	5.9	3	6.3	3	6.2	3	6.5	3	6.9	3
Total	8.2	4	8.1	4	8.0	4	8.0	4	8.2	4	8.2	4	8.2	4	8.3	4

* Obstetric and psychiatric activity is excluded.
Data Source: HIPE & NPRS Unit, ESRI.