

# Massachusetts Acute Care Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data—Quarterly Update:

October 2018 Through June 2023 (Preliminary)

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## Introduction

The Massachusetts Center for Health Information and Analysis (CHIA) provides analyses of health system utilization to inform payers, providers, policymakers, and the public. In December 2020, CHIA first published [Massachusetts Acute Care Hospital Inpatient Discharge Data \(FFY 2016-2019\)](#).

This report provided information and analyses of hospital inpatient utilization patterns in the period leading up to the outbreak of COVID-19 and presented measures of inpatient utilization overall and by hospital, patient, and discharge characteristics.

Building upon that report, CHIA developed a new quarterly update series, which includes an [interactive dashboard](#) and an accompanying [databook](#). The first quarterly update was published in April 2021 on data from October 2018 through December 2020. These quarterly updates use interim data to present analyses on a quarterly or monthly basis at a statewide and hospital level. The November 2023 quarterly update includes a map detailing the rate of inpatient discharges by ZIP Code tabulation area\* and acute care hospital locations. Additionally, two new characteristic tabs were added to describe inpatient stays: discharges by age and race/ethnicity and by expected payer type and race/ethnicity.

The data in the quarterly updates are preliminary. The primary purpose of this series is to provide timely patterns and trends on key inpatient utilization measures. The dashboard and databook are updated at each release with more complete information as it becomes available and as CHIA continues to work with providers and payers to process and confirm data submissions through the annual data collection process.

\* ZIP Code Tabulation Areas or ZCTAs are geographic areas created by the U.S. Census Bureau using United States Postal Service (USPS) ZIP Codes to facilitate mapping and geographic analyses. In most cases, ZCTA is the same as the ZIP Code for an area.

This quarterly update includes new data from October 2018 to June 2023. This update is organized in the following eight sections:

- Statewide Utilization
- Statewide Utilization by ZIP Code
- Utilization by Hospital
- Discharge Characteristics
- Diagnoses and Procedures
- Chronic Conditions
- Behavioral Health
- COVID-19

### Statewide Utilization

The utilization section includes number of inpatient discharges, total inpatient days, and average length of stay. Measures are shown for all hospital inpatient discharges across Massachusetts, as well as by obstetric and age group, hospital cohort, and intensive care use.

### Statewide Utilization by ZIP Code

This map shows the rate of discharges, per 100 residents, in percentiles by ZIP Code. New in the November 2023 update, locations of acute care hospitals were added to the map. Measures are shown for all hospital inpatient discharges across Massachusetts on a yearly basis. This section does not use preliminary data.

### Utilization by Hospital

This section presents hospital-level inpatient utilization measures on a quarterly basis for all acute care hospitals in Massachusetts. The measures included are total discharges, total inpatient days, and average length of stay.

### Discharge Characteristics

This section shows statewide utilization patterns by age group, obstetric and age group, sex, race/ethnicity, expected primary payer type, discharge setting, intensive care use, and intensive care days.

### Diagnoses and Procedures

This section presents common primary diagnoses and principal procedures associated with discharges by obstetric and age group at a statewide level. Additionally, the average length of stay for each primary diagnosis category is provided.

### Chronic Conditions

This section shows statewide discharges by chronic conditions, including total discharges, percent of total discharges, and average length of stay within each obstetric and age group.

### Behavioral Health

This section shows total discharges, percent of total discharges, and average length of stay for inpatient hospital discharges associated with any behavioral health conditions and by specific diagnosis categories. These estimates are presented for all discharges statewide and by obstetric and age group.

### COVID-19

This section shows statewide utilization patterns for COVID-19- and non-COVID-19-associated discharges by patient and discharge characteristics, including age group, obstetric and age group, gender, race/ethnicity, expected primary payer type, discharge setting, intensive care use, and intensive care days. The measures included are total discharges, percent of total discharges, and average length of stay.

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Publication Number 23 334-CHIA-01