

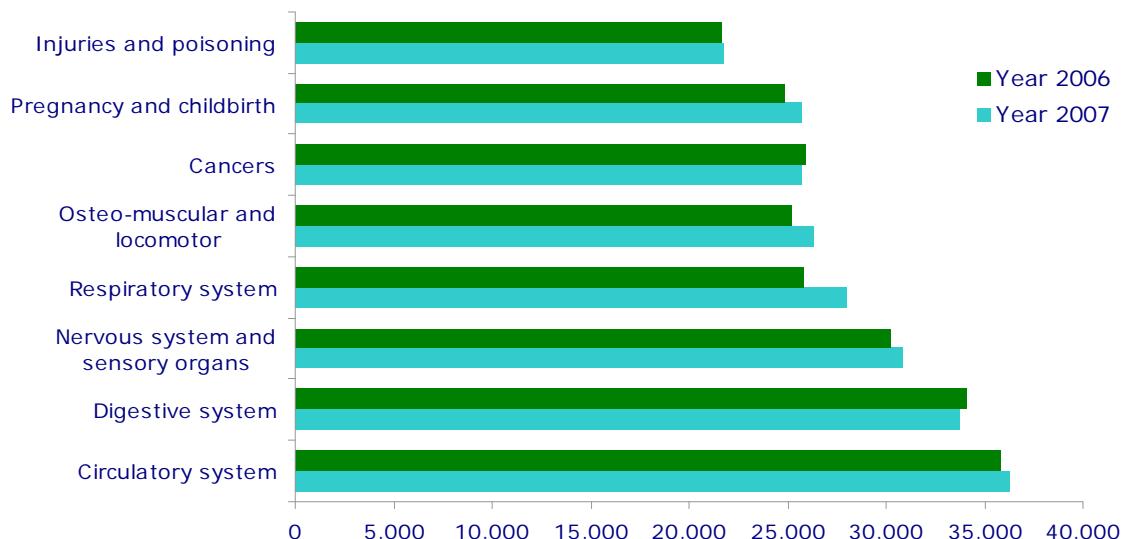
Hospital admissions due to respiratory diseases rose by 8.5% in 2007

Cardiovascular and digestive diseases continued to be the main cause for patients being hospitalised

Acute care hospitals in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 297,100 hospital discharges in 2007, including people who were hospitalised or admitted to day hospital units, which was up by 2% on the previous year, according to Eustat data. 76% of the discharges were from public hospitals and 24% from private ones. In the same way as in the previous year, the average hospital stay was 5.1 days in 2007.

Circulatory system (cardiovascular) diseases were the main cause of hospitalisation in 2007 and accounted for 12.2% of the total number of discharges, followed by digestive system diseases (11.4%) and diseases of the nervous system and sensory organs (10.4%).

Graph 1.- Patients discharged from acute care hospitals by most common major diagnostic groups. 2006-2007



Source: Eustat

Respiratory diseases stood out as they were up by 8.5% compared to 2007. This group, which is the fourth most frequent cause of hospital admissions, had a greater incidence in January, February and December. Diseases during the perinatal period, which accounted for 0.7% of total discharges, also registered a notable increase of 11% compared to the previous year, mainly due to the conditions resulting from premature births and well birth weights.

Mental disorders accounted for the longest average hospital stays, with a mean of 14.1 days, along with perinatal conditions that averaged 13.8 days. These were followed at some distance by infectious diseases (8.6 days) and tumours (7.9 days).

7,786 people of the total admitted to hospital died. The main causes were tumours (26.5%), where "*malignant lung and bronchial tumours*" accounted for the highest number of deaths, followed by diseases of the circulatory system (22.3%) and the respiratory system (18.1%).

The pathologies that led to the same person being admitted more than once to hospital were "maintenance chemotherapy" and chronic conditions: "*chronic bronchitis*" and "*cardiac insufficiency*".

Over half of hospital admissions (57%) required a surgical operation or procedure. Operations on the musculoskeletal system, particularly "*operations on lower limb joints*" (particularly the knee and hip) were the most frequent and accounted for 20% of the total operations. They were followed by operations on the digestive system (14%), where "*repairing hernias*" were the most common, and operations on the eye (13%), with ones to remove "*cataracts*" being the most frequent.

Table 1.- Patients discharged by major diagnostic groups, 2006-2007

Major diagnostic groups	2006			2007			A.s.*	Δ %
	Total discharges	%	A.s.*	Total discharges	%	A.s.*		
Total	291.332	100,0	5,1	297.100	100,0	5,1	2,0	
Illnesses of the circulatory system	35.852	12,3	6,3	36.243	12,2	6,3	1,1	
Diseases of the digestive system	34.056	11,7	5,7	33.751	11,4	5,7	-0,9	
Illnesses of the nervous system and the sensory organs	30.299	10,4	1,1	30.831	10,4	1,0	1,8	
Illnesses of the respiratory system	25.784	8,9	5,8	27.970	9,4	5,9	8,5	
Osteo-myoarticular system diseases	25.205	8,7	4,0	26.330	8,9	3,9	4,5	
Neoplasia (tumors)	25.951	8,9	7,9	25.775	8,7	7,9	-0,7	
Pregnancy, birth and puerperium	24.841	8,5	2,9	25.706	8,7	2,9	3,5	
Injuries and poisoning	21.674	7,4	7,5	21.758	7,3	7,5	0,4	
Illnesses of the genitourinary system	16.637	5,7	3,9	17.257	5,8	3,8	3,7	
Badly defined symptoms, signs and conditions	12.983	4,5	4,8	13.837	4,7	4,8	6,6	
Others	12.327	4,2	2,6	11.743	4,0	2,5	-4,7	
Skin and subcutaneous tissue diseases	5.165	1,8	3,7	5.295	1,8	3,2	2,5	
Mental problems	5.015	1,7	13,8	5.084	1,7	14,1	1,4	
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases	4.430	1,5	5,7	4.262	1,4	6,0	-3,8	
Infectious and parasitical diseases	3.664	1,3	8,7	3.425	1,2	8,6	-6,5	
Blood and hematopoietic organ diseases	3.193	1,1	5,4	3.281	1,1	6,0	2,8	
Congenital anomalies	2.411	0,8	3,5	2.504	0,8	3,7	3,9	
Diseases originating in the perinatal period	1.845	0,6	13,5	2.048	0,7	13,8	11,0	

* Average length of stay

Source: Eustat

For further information:

Basque Statistics Office

C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

Tlf:+34-945-01 75 00 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: eustat@eustat.es

Contact: Maite Ugarte

Tlf:+34-945-01 75 47 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01

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