

Definitions and Classifications of Hospital Beds and Beds in Nursing and Residential Care Facilities

Hospital Beds

WHO defines a hospital bed as a bed that is regularly maintained and staffed for the accommodation and full-time care of a succession of inpatients and is situated in wards or a part of the hospital where continuous medical care for inpatients is provided. The total of such beds constitutes the normally available bed complement of the hospital.

Counts of available hospital beds exclude cots for neonates, day care beds, provisional and temporary beds, beds in storerooms, and beds for special purposes such as dialysis or delivery (WHO, 2000a).

The OECD Health Data currently avoids the term “hospital beds” and uses the term “in-patient beds”. These are further sub classified into “curative care beds” or “acute care beds”, “psychiatric care beds” and “long-term care beds”. EUROSTAT has introduced another subgroup i.e. “other beds”.

In-patient hospital care beds accommodate patients who are formally admitted (or ‘hospitalised’) to a hospital for treatment and/or care and who stay for a minimum of one night in the hospital. Beds in hospitals available for same day or day-care patient care are usually not included in figures for “total inpatient care beds”. Counts of total inpatient care beds refer to counts of “available beds”.

Total inpatient hospital beds are all hospital beds which are regularly maintained and staffed and immediately available for the care of admitted patients.

Inclusions:

- Beds in all hospitals, including general hospitals (*HP.1.1 in the System of Health Accounts (SHA) provider classification*), mental health and substance abuse hospitals (*HP.1.2*), and other specialty hospitals (*HP.1.3*).
- Occupied and unoccupied beds.

Exclusions:

- Surgical tables, recovery trolleys, emergency stretchers, beds for same-day care, cots for healthy infants.
- Beds in wards which were closed for any reason.
- Provisional and temporary beds.
- Beds in Nursing and residential care facilities (*HP.2*).

Curative care (acute care) beds in hospitals (HP.1) are hospital beds that are available for curative care (HC.1 in the SHA classification excluding psychiatry).

Inclusions:

- Beds accommodating patients where the principal clinical intent is to do one or more of the following: manage labour (obstetric), cure non-mental illness or provide definitive treatment of injury, perform surgery, relieve symptoms of non-mental illness or injury (excluding palliative care), reduce severity of non-mental illness or injury, protect against exacerbation and/or complication of an non-mental illness and/or injury which could threaten life or normal functions, perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

Exclusions:

- Beds allocated for other functions of care (such as psychiatric care, rehabilitation, long-term care and palliative care).
- Beds in mental health and substance abuse hospitals (HP.1.2).
- Beds for rehabilitation (HC.2 in the SHA categories of care).
- Beds for palliative care.

Psychiatric care beds in hospitals (HP.1) are hospital beds accommodating patients with mental health problems (part of HC.1 in the SHA classification).

Inclusions:

- All beds in mental health and substance abuse hospitals (HP.1.2).
- Beds in psychiatric departments of general hospitals (HP.1.1) and of speciality (other than mental health and substance abuse) hospitals (HP.1.3).

Exclusions:

- Beds allocated to non-mental curative care (part of HC.1).
- Beds allocated to long-term nursing care in hospitals (HC.3).
- Beds for rehabilitation (HC.2).
- Beds for palliative care.

Long-term care beds in hospitals (HP.1) are hospital beds accommodating patients requiring long-term care due to chronic impairments and a reduced degree of independence in activities of daily living.

Inclusions:

- Beds in long-term care departments of general hospitals (HP.1.1).
- Beds for long-term care in speciality (other than mental health and substance abuse hospitals) (HP.1.3).
- Beds for palliative care.

Exclusions:

- Beds in mental health and substance abuse hospitals (*HP.1.2*).
- Beds for rehabilitation (*HC.2*).

Other beds in hospitals (*HP.1*)

All other beds in hospitals (*HP.1*) not elsewhere classified.

Inclusions:

- Beds for rehabilitation (*HC.2*) and respite beds.
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Beds in Nursing and Residential care facilities

Available beds in nursing and residential care facilities (*HP.2 in SHA provider categories*) are beds for people requiring ongoing health and nursing care due to chronic impairments and a reduced degree of independence in activities of daily living (ADL) in establishments primarily engaged in providing residential care combined with either nursing, supervision or other types of care as required by the residents. The care provided can be a mix of health and social services.

Inclusion:

- Beds in all types of nursing and residential care facilities (*HP.2*) dedicated to long-term nursing care (*HC.3 in SHA categories of care*).
- Beds used for palliative care in nursing and residential care establishments.

Exclusion:

- Beds in nursing and residential care facilities which do not provide ongoing health and nursing care (including ADL) together with accommodation.
- Beds available in hospitals - *HP.1* (even those beds dedicated to long-term nursing care – *HC.3*).