

CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS LANDSCAPE REPORT

Important definitions and concepts

Case Mix Index (CMI): Case mix index is a measure of the “average” severity of patients seen at a health care facility, such as a children’s hospital. CHA uses a version of CMI that is specific to pediatric populations.¹ As an example of patient severity, a specific Asthma patient can be classified into four severity categories from minor to extreme with a higher “CMI” as the severity increases.

Observation Care: Children may be hospitalized in acute care settings under either observation status or inpatient status. Observation status is an administrative billing classification for hospitalized patients that do not meet inpatient status. Some children’s hospitals, but not all, have dedicated observation units to improve efficiency in short-stay hospitalizations (e.g., hospitalizations lasting less than 48 hours).

Surgical Cases: Many locations within a children’s health system are equipped to perform surgical procedures, including operating rooms, ambulatory surgery centers, and even certain types of intensive care units. In this report, surgical cases are defined as procedures that are likely to occur in an operating room (according to accepted health care industry standards).

Emergency Department Visits: Emergency department visits are cases that arrive and are discharged from the emergency department. Cases admitted to the inpatient setting through the emergency department are counted as inpatient admissions.

Region: Region is based on the children’s hospital physical address and aligns with the U.S. Census Bureau’s four (4) statistical regions.

¹ Richardson et al. Development of Hospitalization Resource Intensity Scores for Kids (H-RISK) and Comparison across Pediatric Populations. *J Hosp Med.* 2018 Sep 1;13(9):602-608.