

HEALTH FACILITIES, 1996

Hospitals, Tennessee 1996³²

- The number of general/specialty hospitals in Tennessee has steadily declined overall since 1987. The apparent increase in numbers of such hospitals in 1996 to 133 from 124 in 1995 is an artifact of changes in reporting.³³ The number of hospitals in Tennessee in 1996 actually remained the same as in 1995.
- The number of hospital beds, both licensed and staffed (19,049), continued to show a decline in 1996 though at a slower rate than that which occurred from 1991 to 1995.
- The number of staffed beds per 1,000 population in 1996 was 3.6, about the same as in 1995 (3.7). Recent years have seen the continuation of a downward trend that started at 4.5 in 1991.
- All reporting facilities were Medicaid/TennCare-certified.

Utilization - Inpatient Care

- From 1995 to 1996, inpatient days decreased from 3.963 million to 3.858 million; admissions declined from 745,925 to 743,840; and average daily census fell from 10,857 to 10,570.
- Utilization of short-term hospital care in Tennessee continued its decline in 1996. However, both the average daily census and average length of stay fell compared to the last four years, with fewer patients and shorter average stays.
- Overall, the average length of stay in Tennessee hospitals declined by 17% from 6.3 days in 1991 to 6.1 in 1993, 5.3 in 1995, and 5.2 days in 1996.
- The average daily census also declined from 13,350 in 1991 to 12,342 in 1993, 10,857 in 1995, and 10,570 in 1996. This decline amounted to 21% over the period.
- Occupancy rates for both licensed and staffed beds remained fairly stable from 1995-1996 for licensed beds (43%) and staffed beds (55% to 56%). From 1991 to 1995, this rate had fallen from 50% to 43% for licensed beds and from 60% to 55% for staffed beds. The occupancy rate is defined as the ratio of inpatient days to bed days open during the year expressed as a percentage. The decline in occupancy

³²Hospitals include only short-term, non-Federal, general/specialty acute care hospitals.

³³Beginning in 1996, Tennessee hospitals were required to file a separate survey report on each individual hospital, even if it was a satellite hospital. Previously, hospital systems containing more than one hospital could submit a single report for the whole system.